

## Arab council votes to fight U.S. move

TUNIS (AP) — The Arab League Council, meeting at the level of permanent representatives, voted Saturday to fight the American decision to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mission to the United Nations in New York. The council, which had been meeting since Thursday, also condemned the "racist regime in South Africa and proclaimed the support of the Arab World for the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia." The council's resolution denounced "the alliance and cooperation between the two racist states of South Africa and Israel," adopted a plan for "an information campaign in view of countering the emigration of Iranian Jews to Israel" and denounced "the cooperation in armaments between Iran and the Zionist entity." The council confirmed its previous resolution calling for an increase in urgent financial aid to the Lebanese and "the reconstruction of the Palestinian refugee camps in this country and its neighbours." The council also called for implementation of decisions adopted by a recent meeting of supervisors of Palestinian refugee affairs in host countries and condemned Israel's move against the Jerusalem District Electricity Company.

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## Cabinet okays desert dams

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday endorsed an agreement under which the Canadian government undertakes to conduct a study on the feasibility of constructing dams on the wadis of the Jordanian desert. Under the terms of the agreement Canada covers the cost of the study including the drafting of final designs for the project. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, also endorsed, in principle, a proposal for raising sheep and formed a committee to study the proposal. The council of ministers passed the 1988 budget of the Aqaba Region Authority and appointed Sultan Majid Al Odwan on the board of the Jordan Valley Authority.

## Sharif Zaid meets Pakistani delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Saturday met with a delegation from Pakistan's National Defence College. The delegation is headed by Major General Farah Khan. Field Marshal Sharif Zaid and the delegation discussed a number of issues of concern to the armed forces of the two countries.

## Limited office hours during Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) — Office hours of all government departments during the coming Holy Month of Ramadan will be between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., an official communiqué issued by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Saturday. The communiqué said the order excludes those employed by certain departments requiring special arrangements for work. The communiqué instructed department directors to take the necessary measures to ensure strict adherence by regulations concerning fasting during the Holy Month which is expected to start April 18. Another communiqué issued Saturday by the prime minister instructed all government departments to abide by regulations concerning the use of vehicles owned by government departments.

## Moscow sends invitation to Arafat

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has been invited to visit the Soviet Union, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Saturday. The agency did not say when Arafat would be travelling to Moscow. The invitation was presented by Soviet Ambassador to Tunisia Vladimir Sobchenko.

## Senior Soviet official visits UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — A Soviet delegation and President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) discussed the Gulf war and Middle East situation Saturday. The Soviet team was headed by Georgy Tarazevich, vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the highest ranking Kremlin leader to visit the UAE since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1985. Tarazevich next week will visit Oman and Kuwait, which also have ties with Moscow.

# Israelis kill 6 more Arabs

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead six Palestinians in renewed violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip Saturday, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.**

Three Palestinians were killed in a single incident in Gaza city when troops opened fire on protesters who attacked them with sticks and stones, an army spokesman said.

The spokesman said one Israeli soldier was stabbed in the incident and another soldier was lightly wounded.

In another incident, soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian boy in Bethlehem. According to the army version of the incident, the boy was about to attack a patrol with a petrol bomb.

The other two deaths came when Israeli troops opened fire on Palestinian demonstrators in Beit Lqya and Deir Sudan in the West Bank, news agencies reported. The identities of the victims were not immediately available.

According to an Israeli spokesman, the Gaza killings came after protesters hurled knives and metal rods at troops patrolling a main street and tried to seize their weapons. Soldiers opened fire on the attackers, killing three, he said.

During the scuffle, one Israeli soldier suffered medium stab wounds and was evacuated to a nearby Israeli hospital, the army spokesman said. Another soldier was lightly injured, he said. U.N. relief workers gave

another version of the incident. They said the clash started when several Israelis in civilian clothes hit a Palestinian boy they charged had thrown stones at their car. The boy's father and uncle came to help him, one of them stabbing a soldier with a knife. The three deaths occurred in the shoot-out that followed.

There were conflicting reports on the number of wounded protesters. The army said two protesters were wounded by gunfire.

but Palestinian journalists set the number as high as 13.

Officials at Gaza city's Ahli and Shifa hospitals said they had admitted three Palestinians with gunshot wounds and Arab reports said another wounded was transferred to an Israeli hospital.

Palestinian reporters identified the dead men as Jamil Rashad Al Kourdy, 55, Ahmed Samir Al Kourdy, 40, and Hassan Al Kourdy, 21.

In Bethlehem, troops fired at hundreds of protesters who attacked them with rocks and empty bottles in the town's main market, killing one, the army said.

Several protesters were also wounded as troops chased them down winding, cobblestoned

streets lined with shops, witnesses said. The army said it had no reports of wounded, but witnesses at the scene said five were wounded.

The Bethlehem incident occurred near the Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus Christ. It happened as Christian pilgrims flocked to the Holy Land to celebrate Easter.

Residents in Bethlehem said the violence began in late morning when troops forced shops to close, apparently to thwart instructions by leaders of the uprising that shopkeepers open only in the morning and observe a general strike in the afternoons.

Shortly after the forced closure, underground protest lead-

ers arrived and forced shops to reopen. Hundreds of protesters then gathered and began moving through the narrow market streets to central Manger Square, where troops were stationed.

As the protesters hurled rocks and empty bottles at the troops, some soldiers turned and began chasing the protesters back through the streets, firing tear gas, rubber bullets and finally live bullets, the witnesses told the AP.

Salim Hallas Al Shaer, a 23-year-old artisan who carved religious artifacts from olive wood, was dead on arrival at nearby Bet Jalla hospital with a gunshot wound to the head, according to doctors and the ambulance driver.

Later, during a hastily organized funeral march for Shaer along a main road in Bethlehem, troops fired tear gas and live bullets at mourners, said a participant. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Several hours after the killing, an AP reporter saw army helicopters circling over Manger Square.

Along the street where Shaer was shot, groups of angry residents stood talking. The branch of an olive tree had been placed in a puddle of blood, accompanied by a sign reading: "The heroic, Salim."

Scribbled on a stone wall behind the makeshift shrine was the slogan: "Palestine is Arab. PLO, Israel no."

The killings Saturday brought the Arab death toll to 133 since protests erupted in the occupied territories in early December, according to U.N. figures.



Foreign journalists stage a sit-in strike near the Qaladiya camp in the occupied West Bank in protest against Israel's denial of media access to the camp

## Pope blesses Shultz efforts, stresses Palestinian rights

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — Pope John Paul blessed the Middle East peace efforts of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday but reminded him that any plan must defend Palestinian rights as well as Israel's existence.

Shultz, who goes to Israel Sunday at the start of a new trip to rally support for his plan, talked with the Pope for 30 minutes in the pontiff's private study in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace.

"God bless your efforts," the Pope told Shultz at a picture-taking session in the Vatican's frescoed Throne Hall after the private part of the audience.

Shultz responded: "I go from here to the Middle East with your blessing to sustain the effort."

Vatican sources quoted by Renter said that while the Pope supported all efforts for a just peace in the Middle East, he was not backing any individual plan.

The Vatican's chief spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, said afterwards that Shultz and the Pope discussed the Middle East and Central American situations as well as East-West relations.

"The Holy Father insisted on the just rights of the Palestinian

people and the moral duty to seek a solution which also takes into account the just rights of Israel," he said.

The spokesman said the pontiff, who discussed the Middle East with His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in February, was greatly interested in all peace efforts which sought solutions acceptable to all.

"Progress comes in small" steps, Shultz said later Saturday to his Vatican counterpart, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli. The U.S. envoy held up his thumb and index finger close together to make his point.

The Vatican does not have diplomatic relations with Israel. Vatican officials have cited the Palestinian question, Israel's unsettled boundaries and the status of Jerusalem as reasons.

Shultz will be touring the Middle East for the second time in a month and he has suggested he would be happy if regional leaders gave even tentative signs of willingness to endorse the American peace plan.

"Of course we'd like people to say yes... and if they can't say



Pope John Paul

yes, they can say maybe or they can say yes if somebody else will do something," he told reporters accompanying him on his flight to Rome Friday.

The remarks suggested Shultz had scaled down expectations of progress, after objections to the plan raised by Shamir and most Arab leaders during his last trip to the region in February and in subsequent talks in Washington.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti encouraged Shultz Friday to pursue the plan but made clear he saw no prospect of quick success.

"No one can have illusions about immediate solutions or miracles. We are talking about the possibility of advancing these negotiations through diplomacy and not violence," Andreotti told reporters after the meeting.

U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman told a news briefing that President Francesco Cossiga, who also met Shultz, echoed Andreotti's sentiments and urged the United States to "keep at it."

## Murphy continues talks in Syria

In Damascus, U.S. envoy Richard Murphy met with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, for the second time in 24 hours Saturday, apparently to discuss the latest American Middle East peace initiative, diplomatic sources reported.

They gave no details of the meeting, but said it was attended by April Glaspie, head of the State Department's Syria, Jordan and Lebanon desk, and U.S. Ambassador William Eagleton.

Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, declined all comment when he left Khaddam's office.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Murphy held talks Friday night with Khaddam on the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Kuwaiti emir renews peace appeal to Iran

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Saturday issued a new appeal to Iran to halt its war with Iraq and resolve the 7½-year-old Gulf conflict through negotiations.

"Judging by Islamic and Arab history, we find that inter-Islamic wars did not provide any radical solution to problems," Sheikh Jaber said in an address at the inauguration of the sixth conference of Arab justice ministers.

He called on Iran "to abide by the Islamic teachings, stick to good neighbourliness and accept reconciliation and dialogue instead of aggression and the continuation of war and destruction."

He advised that there was "no alternative" to peace on the basis of each country enjoying territorial integrity, independence and free will to choose its own rule "without any external or internal aggression."

The emir, current chairman of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), apparently was alluding to Iran's demands that the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein be removed before a peaceful settlement to the war can be reached.

Sheikh Jaber's peace appeal came only three days after tension briefly shot up between his country and Iran when three Iranian gunboats opened fire on a military post on Bubiyan Island, wounding two Kuwaiti soldiers.

Iran has denied the incident and its prime minister, Hussein Musavi, Saturday sent a message to his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. The contents were not disclosed.

## Palestinian uprising

In his address to the justice ministers, Sheikh Jaber criticised powers and organisations advocating human rights for their failure to carry out their duties toward the "criminal practices of the Israeli entity in the occupied Arab territories."

"One of the key achievements of the Palestinian uprising lies in exposing to the world public opinion the myth of Israel's fake progressiveness and democracy," Sheikh Jaber told the conference.

"On your behalf, I put forth all these Israeli inhuman and criminal practices before those states and organisations that advocate human rights and ask them: where they are? and what have they done?" he asked.

Sheikh Jaber also called for resolving the Afghan issue through dialogue without foreign intervention.

"Putting the Afghan house in order is the responsibility of its people, who should conduct a fraternal dialogue to build up their own country and future without foreign intervention," he said.

## Jordan appeals for international action

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Saturday appealed to the world community and international organisations to intervene to stop Israel's inhuman practices against Islamic holy places and Muslim religious men in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The minister also urged international action against Israel's repressive and arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The appeals came in cables which Khayyat sent Saturday to the ministers of awqaf and Islamic countries, the World Islamic League, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and other international forums. The cables followed a decision by an Israeli court allowing a self-styled group of "trustees of the Temple Mount" to hold prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque yard and an attack against Sheikh Saduddin Al Alami, president of the Council of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in the occupied Arab territories. The Israeli attack, Khayyat said, is regarded as a provocative act against the feelings of Muslims and all peace-loving nations in the world.

## Crown Prince: Iran's escalation of war diverts attention from uprising

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday that efforts to reach an end to the Iran-Iraq war should not be limited to condemning Iran for sustaining the war but should go in the direction of implementing Security Council Resolution 598.

Prince Hassan said that Iran's explicit rejection of Resolution 598 would result in immediate sanctions against it, and that the failure of all efforts that had been made, especially by the U.N. secretary general, to convince Iran to take a clear and explicit position regarding the resolution calls for a new resolution to pressure Iran to accept 598 and put an end to the tragic war.

Speaking in an interview with the Iraqi News Agency (INA), the Crown Prince said that Iran's escalation of the war could divert the world's attention from the events in the occupied Arab territories, but that the concern with the Palestinian uprising and the need to reach a just solution to the Palestine problem had increased since the beginning of the

uprising. He said that "hot spots" of conflict in South West Asia were inter-linked from the strategic, geographic and economic perspective. He told INA that an escalation in one of these conflicts could influence other conflicts and seize the world's attention.

When an escalation in the Iran-Iraq "war of the cities" began early March, Prince Hassan said, the uprising in the occupied territories was also escalated.

He said the world's sympathy to the spontaneous nature of the Palestinian uprising was unprecedented and had a negative effect on Israel's image internally and abroad.

The Crown Prince said that following patterns of conflict in the region, "it is easy to conclude that the creation of new conflicts in the region and the escalation in one of the three conflicts in South West Asia means diverting the attention of Arabs from the other conflicts and increasing confusion."

## Iraqi forces overrun Kurdish rebel bases

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq said Saturday that its forces had overrun Kurdish guerrilla bases in the mountainous northeast in a major offensive aimed at crushing the rebels who, with Iranian support, pose a growing threat to the vital Kurdish oilfields.

Kurdish guerrilla leaders have claimed the Iraqis, backed by tanks and air strikes, were dropped poison gas bombs on villages.

Baghdad Radio, monitored in Nicosia Saturday, quoted a high command communiqué as saying its troops had "completely purged" the area around Qala Dagh in the Sulaimaniyeh region, 80 kilometres west of Kirkuk.

Qala Dagh is only 32 kilometres west of Lake Darbandikhan, where Iran launched an offensive 16 days ago. Iraqi and Iranian forces are locked in fierce battles in the area, according to reports in the Gulf.

"All traitors have finally been destroyed," the communiqué declared in a reference to the Iranian-backed Kurdish rebels who have been fighting Baghdad for years.

There was no independent confirmation. But Massud Barzani, leader of the Iranian-backed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), said in a statement telephoned to the AP in Nicosia several days ago, that the Iraqi army launched a major offensive against the guerrillas March 23.

He said two divisions of troops, backed by tanks, artillery and air strikes, were seeking to dislodge KDP fighters and their allies of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan from the Qara Dagh mountains between Kirkuk and the provincial capital of Sulaimaniyeh.

Saturday's Iraqi communiqué said an Iraqi force commanded by Major-General Ayad Khalil Zeki, including Kurdish fighters loyal to Baghdad, had overrun 21 Kurdish bases and villages used by the guerrillas in the last

few days. It said "the bodies of the traitors were spread all over the area," but gave no casualty figures.

The communiqué said Iraqi troops and loyal Kurds had destroyed forces of rebel leader Jalal Talabani at Qara Dagh and at least a dozen other villages.

Talabani is chief of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the main Kurdish rebel organisation fighting against the Baghdad government in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Iraq March 18 said its forces had overrun Talabani's headquarters in the mountains near Qara Dagh.

The communiqué said Talabani was an agent for Iran, whose forces have been operating in Sulaimaniyeh province for several weeks.

Baghdad charged Talabani with helping Iranian forces to seize the town of Halabja. Iran has accused Iraq of killing 5,000 Kurds with chemical weapons in and near Halabja.

In Baghdad, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday agreed on the need for an end to the Gulf war based upon the rights of both belligerents. Baghdad Radio reported.

It said the two leaders during talks reaffirmed the "necessity to achieve a just and peaceful settlement to the war taking into consideration the rights of Iraq and Iran (and) the norms of international law."

Ankara has good relations with both Iran and Iraq and Turkish officials earlier said Ozal would stress Turkey's continuing neutrality in the conflict during his two-day visit to Baghdad.

Ozal, who visited Tehran in February, earlier discussed bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries with First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan.

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# Ministry seeks qualitative improvement in health services

By Monika Warich  
Special to the Jordan Times

FIRST test-tube baby born: first successful heart-transplant performed: kidney-transplants — these and similar headlines of the recent past certainly indicate that hospitals and doctors in Jordan have reached a very high standard and are performing outstanding work. However, it was obvious that most of these important accomplishments were achieved in military, government, or private hospitals in or around Amman, while there are rather fewer hospitals and other health services available in other parts of the country, particularly in the southern region. This is partly due to the relatively sparse population there. An improvement of both the quantity and quality of health services is seen as a priority by the Ministry of Health, and various measures are presently being carried out.

The ministry recently launched a programme for the establishment of over 90 new primary health care centres in the southern rural areas. A second project presently being under way is an on-the-job (OJT) training programme for the nursing staff of the hospitals and clinics of Karak, Ma'an and Tafleeh.

The training programme is run jointly by the Ministry of Health and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The project aims at improving the qualifications of graduate nurses after completing a half year of training at nursing college. Another target for the programme are assistant nurses who only had 18 months of training dating back to as many as twenty years ago, who often had no further or refresher courses. GTZ is providing financial and technical assistance to the project which amounts to DM 1.6 million (JD 329,000) while the ministry provides buildings, classroom furniture and administrative expenses.

## Training aid

Presently German nursing expert C. Schrader runs a training course for senior staff nurses and midwives on subjects such as hospital hygiene, hospital management, modern teaching methods, etc. Course participants at the same time work out a suitable curriculum along the lines of this course, which will then become the basis of in-service training courses at the hospitals for all the nursing staff. Starting from May/June 1988, these courses will be held by the participants of the present course themselves in Arabic. The translation and adaptation of the teaching materials is also being carried out by the nurses with expert assistance.

On a rainy February morning, only two thirds of the participants were gathered in the classroom of Al Mazar comprehensive health care centre, where the training takes place once a week. A part of the road between Al Mazar (near Mu'ta in a Karak Governorate) and Tafleeh had been washed away overnight by a heavy flood.

But in spite of often difficult road conditions and other obsta-



Despite increased numbers of nursing schools the country still suffers from shortages in this field. In the photo Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh visits a nursing class (File photo)

cles, such as shortages of senior staff in the various workplaces, everybody is trying to attend as regularly as possible, says Mrs. Schrader.

The participants feel that they are gaining a lot from taking part in the course. Sister Favez, chief midwife from Karak hospital said that she particularly liked the chance to improve her English during the training, as she

together with others were hoping to pass the language test for one of two scholarships offered by GTZ at the University of Surrey in England.

Training in advanced teaching methods was also much appreciated. Mohammad, the male chief nurse of the emergency department at Ma'an hospital, said that it was a good preparation for

their own future teaching.

## Difficulties

Trainers also foresaw some difficulties. These could arise from the fact that endeavours to change or improve nursing practices or introduce new ones as part of the OJT training, might be interpreted as criticism and insult of the trainees work particularly

on the part of older and more experienced nurses. However, everybody was convinced of the need to overcome the problem. Participants wanted more moral as well as practical support from the central administration in Amman.

Hospitals and health care centres in the south of Jordan are suffering from a severe shortage of senior nursing staff, says Naw-

al Shahrat of the Ministry of Health, who is in charge of the training course project. "Sometimes participants could not attend the weekly course sessions because there were no substitutes to take over their duties while they were away," she said. However, there was no shortage of assistant nurses, she added. Karak hospital, with 75 beds, has 35 doctors, 10 assistant doctors and 95 nursing staff, out of which 16 are registered nurses.

Almost all the course participants were from Karak, Ma'an and Tafleeh governorates. The same is true for a part of the hospital staff and administrative personnel. But there seems to be a general feeling of frustration among the people about what they say that "most personnel assigned to posts in the south come from the northern parts of the country and Ammanites usually have the first chance to return back home. Although a generally accepted practice, the frequent transfer of health personnel was also seen to adversely affect health services delivery. The post of director of the one of the hospitals has changed hands four times in 1987 alone, it was said.

A second nursing expert from Germany is expected later this year. With her help, the OJT training for midwives of the hospitals and health care centres will be extended and intensified.

# アラブが見た アラビアのロレンス



## Japanese get Arab view on Lawrence

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

"AN Arab Studies Lawrence of Arabia" is the title of a Japanese translation of Suleiman Mousa's 1962 publication "Lawrence and the Arabs: An Arab Point of View," published in Japan last month.

The book, which was published in Japanese by Libra Port, is believed to be the only serious attempt to present an Arab point of view of the "legend" of Lawrence of Arabia. Unlike other publications by non-Arab writers which have relied solely on foreign sources, Mousa's book relies totally on Arabic sources.

In his book, originally published in Arabic in 1962, the Jordanian historian and writer refutes the argument that Lawrence was in charge of the battlefront during the revolt, or that he played a critical role which made such a prominent figure of him. The author argues that it was the Arabs themselves, rather than Lawrence, who carried out the revolution and shed their blood for its sake.

Marcel Matt, a French writer and an officer of the French military expedition which served during the Arab Revolt, wrote to the author in 1967 telling him that "with astonishment, I read your book from beginning to end. What is presented in it regarding

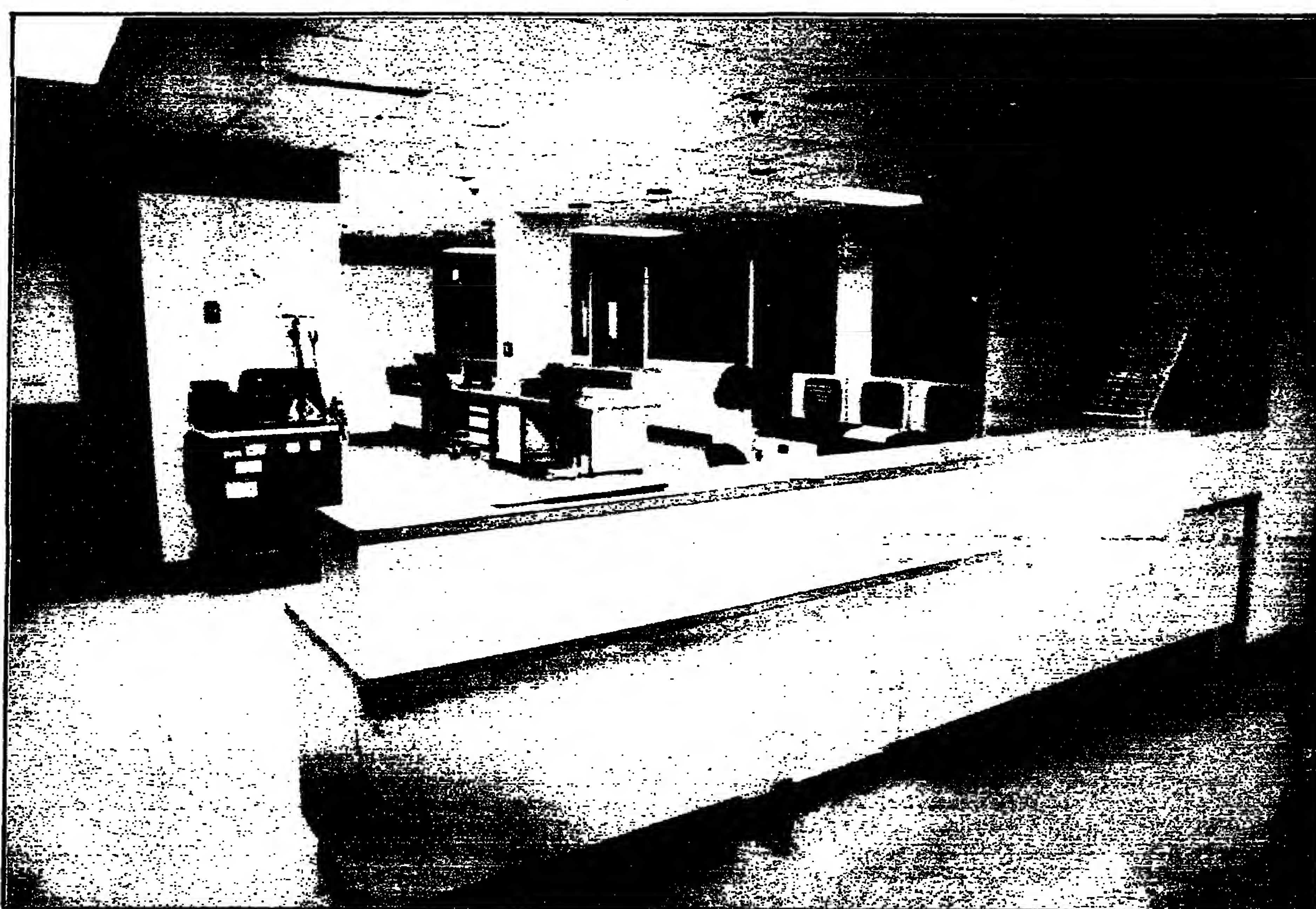
Lawrence's role in the Arab Revolt is more accurate than what Westerners have written. English and French included."

The French writer added that "yours is the only book which presents accurate research attested to by witnesses... It has grasped all historical facts related to Lawrence's assistance to the revolt... You have put an end to the discrepancies that have appeared in (Lawrence's) The Seven Pillars (of Wisdom) and have thus served the cause of history and purified it, a task which so many before you, Arabs and Westerners, failed to do."

The book was translated by Yoshio Mutaguchi of Seiki University in Tokyo and Daiji Sadamari, a reporter for the Tokyo Asahi Shimbun newspaper.

The Japanese translation is 570 pages, with maps, plans and pictures. One picture shows the author with a number of personalities of the Arab Revolt whom he met while writing his book. Among these revolutionaries are Zeid Bin Al Hussein, Nasib Al Bakri, Awni Abdul Hadi, Mohammad Al Ajlouni, Athoub Al Zaben, Turki Al Mifteh Al Zaben, Prince Sa'id Al Jaz'ini and Fa'ez Al Ghuseini.

Mousa's original work was translated into English in 1966 (Oxford University Press), and into French in 1973 (Sindbad Press).



A fully automated and equipped nurse station at one of Amman hospitals (File photo)

## TV & RADIO

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15:30 ..... Koran  
15:50 ..... Programme Review  
15:55 ..... Cartoons  
16:05 ..... Denis the Menace  
16:20 ..... Children's programmes  
17:30 ..... Isaura  
18:30 ..... Soccer  
19:10 ..... Local agricultural programme  
19:45 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme on Arabic  
22:30 ..... T.V. Magazine (local)  
23:00 ..... News Summary  
23:10 ..... T.V. Magazine contd.

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
18:00 ..... Rue Carnot  
18:30 ..... L'Ecole de France  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... International Circus Festival  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Varieties  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... My Husband and I  
21:10 ..... Cosleau Adventure (documentary)  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Ohara  
23:30 ..... Richman, Poorman

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07:00 ..... Light Music  
07:30 ..... Newsweek  
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10:00 ..... News Summary  
11:05 ..... In Concert  
12:00 ..... News Summary  
12:05 ..... Pop Talk  
13:00 ..... News Summary  
13:05 ..... Pop Session contd.  
14:00 ..... News Bulletin  
14:10 ..... Instrumentals  
14:30 ..... Science Report  
15:00 ..... Concert Hour  
16:00 ..... News Summary  
16:05 ..... Instrumentals  
16:30 ..... Old Favourites  
17:00 ..... Listeners' Choice  
17:05 ..... News Summary  
18:00 ..... Rhythm and Blues  
18:05 ..... Newsweek  
19:00 ..... Date with a Star  
20:00 ..... Evening Show  
21:00 ..... News Summary  
21:05 ..... Evening Show continued  
21:55 ..... News Summary  
22:00 ..... Evening Show continued

23:00 ..... News Summary  
23:57 ..... News Headline  
24:00 ..... Close Down

**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
639, 720, 1323 KHz  
07:00 Newsweek 07:30 The Seven Ages of Man 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial Review 08:00 World News 08:09 Twenty-Fours Hours: News Summary 08:30 The Wondrous Cross 08:45 Letter from America 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Jazz for the Asking 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From Our Own Correspondent 10:45 Book Choice 10:50 Voyageguide 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 Pleasures Yours 12:00 World News 12:09 The Sunday Pages 12:15 Science in Action 12:45 Education Today 13:00 News Summary: Short Story 13:15 Classical Record Review 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:09 News About Britain 14:15 The Wondrous Cross 14:30 Musical Masters of the Baroque 15:00 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: Albert's Bridge 16:00 World News 16:09 Twenty-Fours Hours: News Summary 16:30 Sports Roundup 16:45 The Tony Myatt Request Show including at 17:00 News Summary 17:30 Jazz Score 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 Concert Hall 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Why Should This Happen to Me? 19:45 Letter from America 20:00 World News 20:09 Reflections 20:15 Jazz for the Asking 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 My Word 22:00 News Summary followed by Classical Record Review 22:15 The Kingfisher — Part 2 23:00 World News 23:09 Twenty-Fours Hours: News Summary

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07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 News Horizons 10:20 Studio One 10:30 News 10:40 Encounter 10:50 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Critic's Choice 20:30 Issues in the News 21:00 News 21:10 Encounter 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Sunday Report 22:30 News 22:40 USA Standard 22:50 News 23:10 The Concert Hall 23:55 Editorial 24:00 News 06:10 New Horizons 06:30 Studio One

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### TODAY'S EVENTS

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Bouls and Mounira Al Tounsiyah at the Housing Bank Gallery (runs through April 19).  
★ First School Arts Exhibition at Ahmad Touqan School. Open during school hours until June 1988.  
★ From Gutenberg to Electronics: Part II (until 11 April) Goethe Institute.  
★ As art exhibition by Mohammad Abu Zcriq at the AEA Art Gallery.

### WORKSHOP

★ A specialised workshop on medical research, at University of Jordan Manpower Development Centre (runs until April 10).

### BAZAAR

★ Charitable bazaar, held by Hamzeh Islamic Cultural Centre for Women at Ain Karen Society (runs until Monday April 4).

### CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267  
American Centre ..... 644371  
American Centre Library ..... 641531  
British Council ..... 6361478  
French Cultural Centre ..... 637009  
Goethe Institute ..... 641993  
Soviet Cultural Centre ..... 644203  
Spanish Cultural Centre ..... 624049  
Turkish Cultural Centre ..... 639777  
Haya Arts Centre ..... 645195  
Hussein Youth City ..... 6671816  
Y.W.C.A. .... 641793  
Y.W.M.C.A. .... 644251  
Amman Municipal Library ..... 637111  
Univ. of Jordan Library ..... 843555

### MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00

a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.  
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

### SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace hotel, 7:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabbal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

### CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luweidbeh, Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, Tel. 661757.  
Turkish Cultural Centre ..... 639777  
Jabbal Luweidbeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence tel. 601359.  
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.  
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.  
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. tel. 822605, Rev. Veli.

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

18:15 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
18:40 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
18:55 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
17:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
18:00 ..... London (RJ)  
18:45 ..... Helsinki, Agaba (RJ)  
18:50 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Paris (RJ)  
19:05 ..... Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)  
19:05 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
19:15 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Madrid, Rome (RJ)  
06:55 ..... Baghdad (RJ)

### OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

11:40 ..... Cairo (MS)  
12:00 ..... Damascus (AZ)  
12:30 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
13:30 ..... Sharja, Doha (GF)  
13:45 ..... Kuwait (LN)  
14:35 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
14:35 ..... Jeddah (SV)  
16:00 ..... Athens (OA)  
17:35 ..... Athens (OA)  
18:25 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
20:15 ..... Beirut (ME)  
21:10 ..... Berlin (IF)  
22:05 ..... Cairo (MS)  
01:00 ..... London, Cairo (BA)

### DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Vienna, New York (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
13:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
20:35 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
20:50 ..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
20:55 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Jeddah, Sana'a (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)

### PRAYER TIMES

04:56 ..... Fajr  
06:16 ..... Sunrise/Duha  
12:39 ..... Dhuhur  
16:13 ..... Asr  
19:02 ..... Maghreb  
20:21 ..... Isha

### MONEY EXCHANGE

**Saturday rates**  
Local sell/buy rates in Jls  
Belgian franc ..... 96 / 97.6  
Dutch guilder ..... 179.1 / 182  
French franc ..... 59.3 / 60.2  
Italian lire ..... 21.1 / 21.5  
Japanese yen (for 100) ..... 268 / 273.4  
Swedish crown ..... 56.7 / 57.6  
Swiss franc ..... 244 / 247.9  
U.K. sterling pound ..... 628.5 / 640.5  
U.S. dollar ..... 332.9 / 338  
W. German mark ..... 200.8 / 204.6

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

With different types of clouds appearing at varying heights and north-westerly moderate winds, there is likely to be slight increase in temperature during the day. In Agaba, the winds will be north-westerly and calm seas.

## EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate ..... 891228  
Amman Civil Defence ..... 98, 199  
Civil Defence Irbid ..... 271233, 273131  
Civil Defence Quesneish ..... 770733  
Civil Defence Dair Alla ..... 57306  
Ambulance ..... 193, 775111  
Amman downtown fire brigade ..... 198  
First aid ..... 630341  
Blood Bank ..... 776303  
Civil Defence rescue ..... 661111  
Fire/ambulance ..... 622030-3  
Police rescue ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Police headquarters ..... 639141  
Traffic police ..... 8963901  
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881  
Municipal water complaints 7711258  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport (08)5330360

## NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohamad Ibrahim ..... 896254  
Dr. Hisham Kana'an ..... 790286  
Dr. A. Tayeem ..... 628115  
Dr. Anwar Mousa ..... 771020  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661932  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 775336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637035  
Nairook pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644995  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637680

## TAXIS

Ahram taxi ..... 663911  
Zeid taxi ..... 664478  
Khaywan taxi ..... 641541  
Cairo taxi ..... 819157  
Jordan taxi ..... 623050  
Kerdi taxi ..... 841309

## IRBID:

Dr. Mohamad Z'ubi ..... (-)  
Sharaa's pharmacy ..... 272525

## ZARQA:

Dr. Salah Sadat ..... 987565  
Khalifah pharmacy ..... 985417

## GENERAL

Jordan Television ..... 773111/9  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111/9  
Ministry of Tourism ..... 622311  
Hotel complaints ..... 666412  
Price complaints ..... 661178  
Telephone information ..... 641541  
Jordan and Middle East calls ..... 17  
Overseas calls ..... 17  
Repair service ..... 11

## HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Akilieh Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412  
Jabbal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 634140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 6641714  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669331  
University Hospital ..... 84584565  
Al-Munster Hospital ..... 6672719  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 6661277  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6661546  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 7771012  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/2  
J. Amn, Marja ..... 891611/5  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.  
Apple (French) ..... 470 / 340  
Apple (green) ..... 470 / 400  
Banana ..... 350 / 300  
Banana (Muzammas) ..... 300 / 240  
Beans (broad) ..... 300 / 400  
Cabbage ..... 200 / 150  
Carrots ..... 240 / 200  
Cauliflower (white) ..... 200 / 150  
Couscous ..... 250 / 200  
Eggplant (large) ..... 270 / 200  
Eggplant (small) ..... 300 / 200  
Garlic (dry) ..... 120 / 100

Garlic (green) ..... 160 / 120  
Lemon ..... 240 / 180  
Mango ..... 200 / 150  
Onion (green) ..... 200 / 160  
Onion (dry) ..... 300 / 250  
Oranges (local) ..... 240 / 180  
Oranges (Shmeisani) ..... 320 / 250  
Peanut ..... 500 / 380  
Pepper (hot) ..... 620 / 450  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 130 / 80  
Radish ..... 80 / 50  
Spinach ..... 150 / 100  
Tomatoes ..... 280 / 200



## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**RSS-PRESIDENT:** Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Dr. Jawad Al Anani Saturday met with Awad Al Karim Mohammad Yousef from the National Researches Council in Sudan and reviewed with him proposed fields for joint regional cooperation between Jordan and Sudan. The proposed areas of cooperation cover the fields of water pumping by solar or wind energy, maintenance of medical equipment, alternative energy, specifications and standardisation, building codes, computer systems and low-cost housing.

**VETERINARIANS:** Jordan is taking part in a four-day Arab Veterinarians Federation's (AVF's) permanent bureau meeting which opened Saturday in Cairo. Jordan's representative Abdul Fattah Al Khatani, who is chairing the meeting, said that the participants will discuss subjects related to the amendment of the federation's bylaws and statutes aimed at unifying Arab countries regulations concerning the veterinary profession.

**SOCIAL SECURITY CHIEF:** Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director General Dr. Mahdi Al Farhan Saturday met with a visiting delegation representing trade unions in Egypt and explained to them the corporation's goals and services aimed at ensuring security for employees in various sectors in the country. Dr. Farhan pointed out that the SSC provided social security against old age, death and disability to some 460,000 employees in Jordan.

**SALAMEH REELECTED:** The Jordanian Nurses Association Friday elected Hashem Salameh to serve for a second term as association president. Salameh won 126 votes in the election which was held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman. The General Assembly meeting also elected six members to serve on the association board, two of them women.

**COURSES FOR WOMEN:** The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) has opened training courses for Tafieh women to offer training in nutrition, maintenance of domestic electric appliances. A similar course is being organised at Nuzha district in Amman and another in Mafrqa.

**JMA MEETING:** The Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) Friday held a general assembly meeting during which its President Mahmoud Abbadi reported on the association board's activities and achievements over the past year. The assembly heard a report from the financial and administrative committees on the association's cooperation with the Health Ministry on a number of matters of concern to members and cooperation with other professional unions and associations.

**ASSAD TO MEET PRESS:** Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad Sunday meets with journalists and columnists to talk about the work of community colleges and Jordan's higher education policies.

**MEMORANDUM:** The Jordanian Businessmen's Association has sent a memorandum to Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa urging the government to help the association to set up a national centre for developing business in the Kingdom and promoting the sale and marketing of Jordanian goods abroad. The memorandum requested that the Ministry of Industry and Trade help lay down bylaws and regulations for such a centre which aims to open new markets for Jordan's products abroad.

**SURGEONS SOCIETY:** The Jordanian Surgeons Society will open its 16th conference at the Jordan University of Science and Technology Thursday. According to Dr. Ahmad Al Udwan, the association's secretary, nearly 33 working papers will be discussed by the participants who come from Arab and foreign countries ministers.

## National book week starts

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A national book week has begun in the Kingdom to highlight the importance of printed matter and to encourage the habit of reading, especially among children.

The week-long activities are organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA), in cooperation with municipal libraries and concerned government departments.

One of the DLDNA's book exhibitions was opened at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in Amman in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Ministry Secretary General Radi Al Waqfi delivered a speech on the occasion reviewing the Ministry of Education's efforts to provide culture and education to school children through books and publications.

The Ministry of Education has shown its interest in developing children's knowledge by establishing school libraries around the Kingdom Waqfi noted.

During the ceremony, gifts were distributed to a large number of students from different schools who won a DLDNA-

sponsored competition in preparing posters and drawings highlighting the importance of books and reading.

A book exhibition was opened at the vocational training centre in Yajouz in the Zarqa governorate. A total of 7,000 books on display at the exhibition deal with cultural, literary and vocational subjects.

DLDNA Director Ahmad Sharkas said over the past five years his department, in cooperation with government departments and through financial help from the private sectors, succeeded in establishing 50 public libraries in the Kingdom.

Sharkas said that plans are being laid for establishing a central public library in Zarqa.

A five-dunum piece of land has been offered by Zarqa municipality for the project and work is being carried out through cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and local organisations in Zarqa, Sharkas noted.

He said that work on the four-storey building, started in 1987, and when it is completed it will have a special floor for children's books and reading activity.

## Talks stress quality control in poultry feed production

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of 12 regional countries Saturday opened a three-day meeting in Amman to discuss specifications of quality control matters related to the production of poultry feed.

The delegates will focus attention also on regulations and laws governing pollution of poultry feed, feed storage conditions, law violations and means of controlling the quality of produced fodder.

Agriculture Ministry Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi addressed the opening session and reviewed the achievements and success of the poultry industry in Jordan, and policies which, he said, aim to help the country attain self-sufficiency in poultry meat, and to manufacture different elements essential for the production of feed and veterinary medicine.

The Ministry of Agriculture is directing attention towards the production of animal feed in the southern regions of the Kingdom on a large scale to reduce imports and cost, Lawzi noted.

He said that feed production accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the overall cost of poultry meat production.

A total of seven factories in Jordan are involved in producing animal feed at the rate of 75 tonnes an hour, according to Lawzi.

The meeting is sponsored by the Amman based Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre for the Near East, which

was established by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in cooperation with the Italian government.

The U.N. resident representative in Amman, addressed the meeting underlining the United Nations' concern over achieving food security around the world.

U.N. agencies and organisations around the globe continue to provide advice and technical assistance towards achieving that goal, the U.N. representative said.

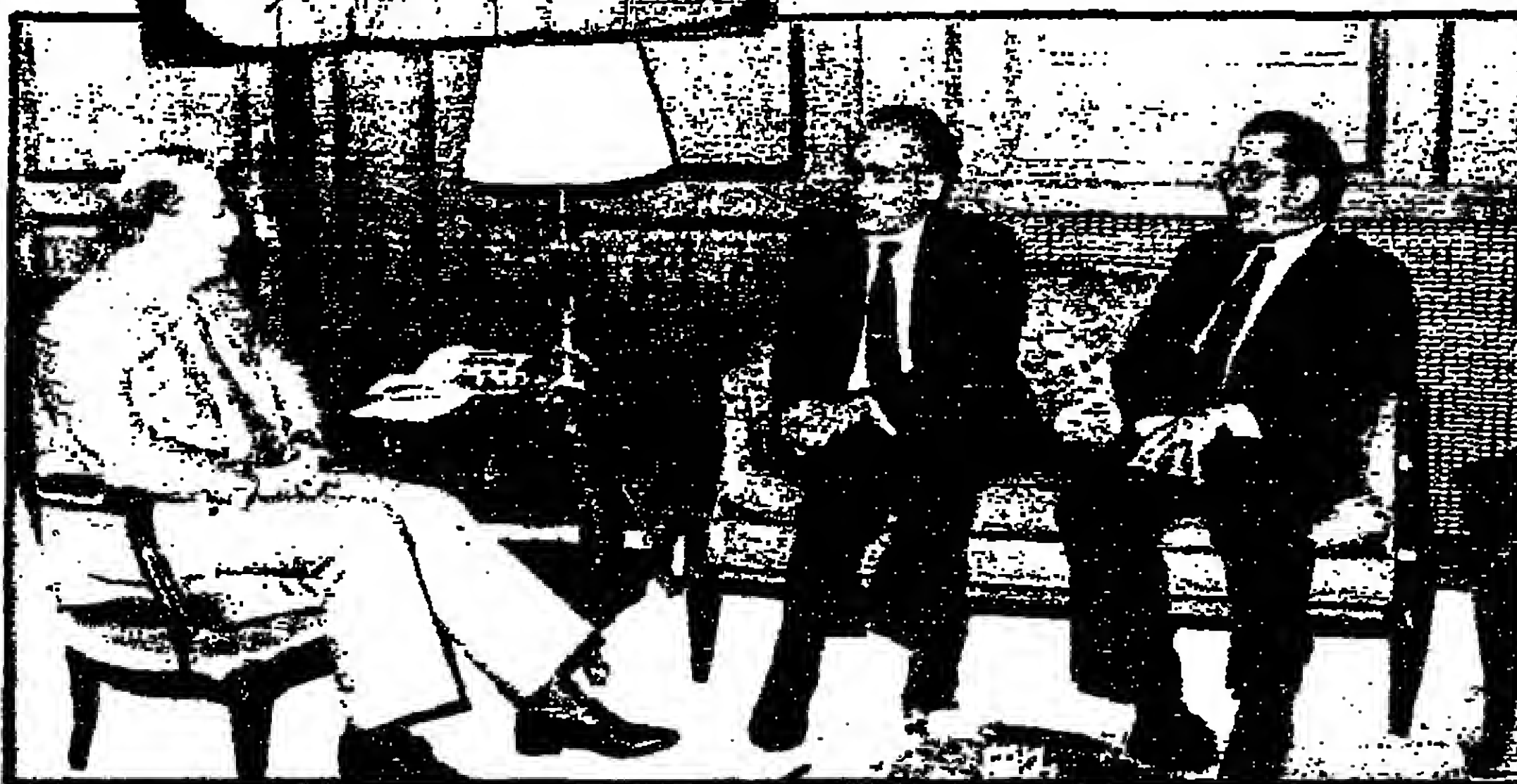
Food security cannot be ensured except through a framework of regional cooperation, he said.

The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) is now providing Jordan with assistance to develop its agricultural potential and achieve food security, the U.N. official added.

The centre's director spoke at the opening session, reviewing the nature of technical assistance offered by the centre to the trainees from different countries in the Near East region.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Luigi Amaduzzi also addressed the meeting outlining his government's role in establishing the regional centre in Jordan, and the various forms of technical assistance it provided to the centre over the past years.

Delegates taking part in the meeting come from Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Lebanon, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco, South Yemen, Cyprus, Afghanistan and Jordan.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday receives Cairo Governor Yousef Abu Taleb and Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh (Petra photo)

## Rifai confers with Cairo governor

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai conferred in his office Saturday with Cairo Governor Yousef Abu Taleb and Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, who briefed him on a charter signed in Amman Thursday to pave the way for cooperation between Amman and Cairo in cultural, technical, touristic, commercial and industrial fields.

Rifai underlined the importance for both sides to benefit from each other's experience and expertise in local government affairs and in offering municipal services to the public.

Under the charter the two cities will exchange expertise in municipal services, cultural matters and means of promoting the protection of their environment from pollution.

The two sides also pledge to organise mutual visits by youth groups and tourists from Egypt and Jordan, and to help each other in developing technical and administrative services.

The Cairo governor also Saturday met with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jabri, Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani and Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin.

Late Saturday Abu Taleb left for home, concluding a four-day visit to Jordan.

He was seen off at the airport by Rawabdeh, Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin and a number of officials.

## Aqaba to have ring road for trucks

AQABA (Petra) — The government is building a ring road around Aqaba for the benefit of trucks and heavy lorries converging on the city from the north, with the purpose of ending congestion and reducing traffic danger. Deputy Prime Minister Thounan Hladawi said here Saturday.

Once the ring road is completed, probably in two years' time, no trucks will be allowed to take the present main approach to the port city from the north, the minister said at a meeting held at the district governor's office Saturday.

The government will improve fines on truck owners and fuel tanker trucks coming into or going out of Aqaba if they carry extra weight, the minister said.

He said the fines will be imposed from now until the end of the year, after which violators of the regulations will not be allowed to bring their trucks for loading or unloading operations at the port area.

The government, Hladawi noted, is keen on developing all services and sectors in Aqaba which is considered one of the main economic centres for the Kingdom, and the country's only outlet to the sea.

After the meeting, the minister inspected a number of projects implemented in Aqaba, such as the Rabieh Housing Estate for non-Jordanian labourers.

He also visited the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) and was briefed on schemes being im-

plemented by the authority which include the development of the southern coast for tourism.

Hindawi called at the palm tree wood, where nearly 5,000 trees are grown, and a regional development project at the Shallaleh district.

Hindawi who is also minister of education visited sites of schools being built in the port city.

The deputy prime minister will stay in Aqaba until Monday inspecting projects and discussing matters of concern to the local residents.

## Jordan calls for united Arab airline company

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday called for the formation of a united Arab airline that can cater to the needs of all Arab countries' air transportation needs, and at the same time deal with a real challenge represented in the merger of American, and European airlines.

Jordan's call came from Royal Jordanian (RJ) Board Chairman and Executive President Ali Ghandour in a speech, during the opening of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation's (AACO) Operations Committee meeting in Amman.

Ghandour said that Arab airlines have started adopting a unified set of specifications, which is a first step leading towards a more comprehensive cooperation in air transport operations.

"At present consultations and contacts are underway for the establishment of a pan-Arab airline that would be entrusted with purchasing or leasing aircraft because Arab airlines cannot unilaterally undertake such projects in view of the enormous prices of modern aircraft," Ghandour noted.

Ghandour reviewed a number of important issues and challenges confronting Arab airlines, and said that the Arabs ought to cope with developments in the air industry.

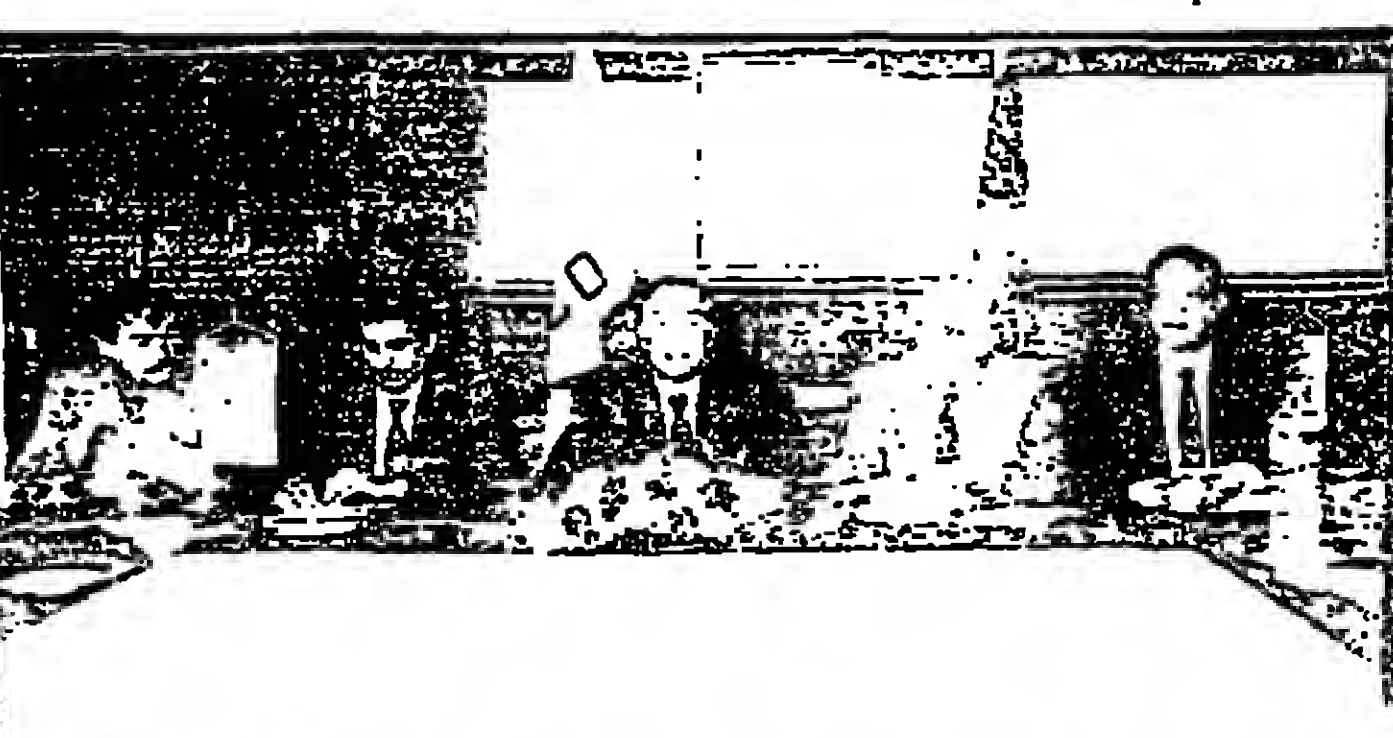
One of the challenges confronting Arab airlines, he said, was the merger of airlines in Europe and in America, a step taken to cope with modern challenges in the airline and air travel industry. Ghandour noted.

He said that more than 70 airlines have already merged in the U.S. forming five major companies, "and all the European

airlines are going to merge by 1992 — a development which calls for concerted efforts and international cooperation among Arab airlines to keep up with their ultimate aim."

Ghandour outlined the importance of having personnel employed by Arab airlines, basic and advanced, to exercise their skills and to ensure air travel safety.

The participants will discuss the final touch: being put to a unified set of regulations for Arab airlines and programming flights through computers, as well as an exchange of information related to Arab air operations.



Royal Jordanian Board Chairman and Executive President Ali Ghandour opens Arab Air Carriers Organisation's Operations Committee meeting Saturday (Petra photo)

## Geologists conference opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — Nearly 120 delegates from the Arab countries and at least six foreign nations will attend the third Jordanian Geological conference, which will open here Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The delegates will review numerous working papers dealing with the introduction of geology to school curricula, prospecting for underground water and a national water strategy serving Jordan's economic and social de-

velopment, according to the Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA) president.

One of the most significant working papers to be discussed at the three-day meeting, he said, deals with petroleum, sedimentary rocks and minerals in the Kingdom.

"The conference aims to raise the standard and the skill of Jordanian geologists, particularly since the Kingdom depends on a large extent for its revenues on its

exported minerals," the president said.

Search and drilling for underground water in Jordan is of great importance since the country is within a semi-arid zone receiving little rain water, and with rivers and little amount of surface water, "a situation that concerned authorities," he said.

A policy of prospecting for ground water, and sound water strategy that serve national development, JGA president noted.

## JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 364

Drawing of: April 2, 1988

## Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. **24931**  
Wins JD 25,000

Holder of ticket No. **31042**  
Wins JD 6,000

Holder of ticket No. **02023**  
Wins JD 3,000

Holder of ticket No. **12371**  
Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. **43088**  
Wins JD 1,500

Holder of ticket No. **51399**  
Wins JD 1,200

Holder of ticket No. **33183**  
Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. **01124**  
Wins JD 600

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD1,000 each wins JD 10  
**24932 24941 24031 25931 31043 24930 24921 24831 23931 14931**

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60  
**31043 31052 31142 32042 41011 31041 31032 31942 30042 21011**

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30  
**02024 02033 02123 03023 12023 02022 02013 02923 01023 01022**

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20  
**12372 12381 12471 13371 22371 12370 12361 12271 11371 02371**

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD150 each wins JD 15  
**43089 43098 43188 44088 53088 43087 43078 43988 42088 33088**

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD100 each wins JD 10  
**51390 51309 51499 52399 61399 51398 51389 51299 50399 41399**

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8  
**33184 33193 33283 34183 43183 33182 33173 33083 32183 33183**

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7  
**01125 01134 01224 02124 11124 01123 01114 01024 00124 71124**

Ticket numbers **51290 18823 59990 07108** win JD 200 each  
Ticket numbers **31913 69190 72619** win JD 100 each

## TICKETS ENDING WITH

**2824 3977 8350 4425 6633** Win JD 20 each **3240 9009 4563 8978 2355** Win JD 20 each

**765 430 378 125 297** Win JD 5 each

8000 tickets ending with **2** Win JD 2 each.

## COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

**40** covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in **665 997 178 067 797** Win JD 10 each

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number **363** of March 17, 1988

**40** covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in **665 997 178 067 797** Win JD 10 each

Next Drawing takes place on **April 17, 1988**  
First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters.



Journalists inspect the new Toyota Corona

## Bisharat to continue leading Toyota team in 1988 rallies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Toyota's agents in Jordan Ismail Bilbeisi and Sons Co. have announced that Hani Bisharat would continue to lead Toyota's team in Jordan's 1988 rallies.

The announcement was made by the company's executive director, George Haddad, speaking during a lunch which the company hosted Friday for representatives of the local press to introduce the new and advanced style of Toyota Corona.

Haddad also explained the new technical and economical features of the new car. He noted that Toyota had been a leading company worldwide in multi-valve engine technology and this was very clear in the new Toyota Corona.

The car has been equipped with a double overhead camshaft 1600-c.c. engine using 16 valves.

Among the new features of the car are its aerodynamic design and low C.D., 31. Haddad added that its body is reinforced to induce more strength with less noise and smoother riding. A Toyota week starts today at the International Car Show.



## Jordan Times

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### The path we seek

WHAT'S the most important dynamic taking place in the Middle East this week? George Shultz's trip is a good candidate, but in our view the prize goes to the eleven ex-generals and senior officers in the Israeli armed forces who have launched a new group to push for the principle of exchanging land for peace. That such a process should take place in relation to the ongoing Palestinian uprising is probably indicative of the path that must be tread to reach the objective of justice and peace in the Middle East. The new Israeli group, the Council for Peace and Security, said in its opening meeting that Israel could withdraw from the occupied territories and remain secure. This is particularly significant given the military background of the men who form the council, and because the principle of exchanging land for peace is central to current diplomatic efforts to launch a peace-making process.

It is also significant that some of the members of the council oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state, or wish to maintain some sort of Israeli military presence in the occupied territories. While we do not share these views, we appreciate that they are an inevitable part of the psyche of an Israeli people that must come to grips with the fact of its own untenable and predatory deeds. Just as it took the Arab states and the Palestinians about 25 years to come to grips with the reality of Israel and with the concept of partitioning Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, so will it take time for the Israelis to adjust to the fact that they must relinquish the occupied territories and live peacefully alongside a self-determinant Palestinian people. The Israelis will not come out tomorrow and accept the principle of full withdrawal and Palestinian national self-determination. But they must indicate that they are capable of travelling down that road. The new council of old Israeli generals is precisely such an indication — all the more relevant because its founders are military men who have come to terms with the limits of militarism, and who have recognised that security emanates from the application of justice for all, and not from the illusory strength of arms.

The larger question which remains unanswered is: Do these enlightened warriors represent only an aberrant fringe in Israel, or are they indicative of which way the majority of Israelis are prepared to move, in the face of the Palestinian uprising? As we have done since the turn of the century, we await an answer to this fundamental question. For peace will only reign when justice is done, and when the Israelis and Palestinians can enjoy reciprocal and equal national rights in the land of Palestine.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Shultz comes for rescue of Israel

IT is clear that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's mind is made up before he embarks on his coming Middle East tour. In a statement in Washington Shultz defended Israel's repressive measures and practices in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip claiming that they were within Israel's security responsibilities and designed to keep order. His statement coincided with one coming from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in which Shamir issued new threats against the Palestinians. Shultz said that the projected international conference would have a limited role and will not affect Israel's direct talks with its neighbours. He said so while realising that the Arabs are adhering to their own idea of convening an international conference under U.N. auspices with full powers to bring about a lasting settlement. Following the statement, a State Department official said that Washington hoped that Shultz would have quick responses to his new initiative from the concerned parties. It is useful to remind Washington of basic facts, namely that Israeli practices are considered as crimes against the Palestinians and that the Arabs are and will continue to be firmly committed to the idea of an international conference with full powers to bring about a lasting peace.

#### Al Dustour: Better with U.S. blessing

ISRAEL has found encouragement for pursuing its atrocities against the Arabs in U.S. officials' statements concerning the situation in the occupied territories. In fact, Israel does not need any encouragement to pursue its present policies which aim at uprooting the Palestinians from their homeland because Israeli troops are maintaining a policy of oppression and murder against the Arab population with or without American consent. Following a statement from the U.S. assistant secretary of state the Israelis committed a massacre at Idna, a village near Hebron, following similar atrocities committed in other parts of the occupied Palestinian land. Israeli soldiers have been intent on carrying on their killing of people and breaking the arms and legs of youths over the past three months and the U.S. which had supported Israel's practices all along has now come out openly in support of the Zionist measures. Most importantly, the world community cannot issue any verbal condemnation of Israel's practices because the Zionist state is well protected by Washington at the Security Council. But it is strange to hear U.S. support for such atrocities at a time when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz prepares for his coming tour in the Middle East. We call on Arab governments to openly ask Shultz to give them a clear cut American policy with regard to peace efforts and objectives.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: The confrontation intensifies

DESPITE Israel's military machine and its terrorist practices against the Arab people of Palestine, the oppressed population is continuing a glorious uprising and a persistent revolt against the occupation. Israel, in pursuing its atrocities in the occupied lands is disregarding all calls for an end to the crimes and all bids for peace because it relies heavily on U.S. support at world forums and American military and economic assistance to maintain its occupation. What is required is a concerted Arab effort at all levels worldwide and particularly in the United States to expose Israel's repressive measures and terrorism being practised every day against the Arab population. If the United States continues to ignore the facts and keep a blind eye to what is happening in the occupied Arab territories then it does not give any regard whatsoever to the question of human rights that it is claiming to defend. The Arabs are determined to bring about peace but they feel disappointed with the U.S. whose officials claim that Israel has the right to quell anti-Israeli protests in a manner that has been practised by Israeli troops. A united Arab front in the face of these challenges is wanted now more than ever before.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## Time for deregulation?

THE PURPOSE of any regulation, or intervention in economic behaviour is supposedly meant for the public good. Therefore, it is only fair to ask: What is good for the public in preventing commercial banks from paying reasonable interest on current accounts and deposits on demand? The wisdom of this regulation is questionable.

At one time, commercial banks used to pay up to 5 per cent per annum on sizeable current accounts. Suddenly the Central Bank decided to impose a ceiling of 2 per cent of interest rate payable on such accounts. The ceiling was subsequently raised to 4 per cent and then lowered to 3 per cent, all on arbitrary basis. In most cases commercial bank paid none on these accounts citing Central Bank orders.

The Central Bank decided to intervene in this respect at a time when inflation was mounting. Its real purpose was well known: Influencing the money supply by pushing it downward, at least from a statistical point of view. Money supply consists of two components: currency in circulation and checking accounts with commercial banks. The Central Bank thought that inflation would not be blamed on its policy or lack of it, if the money supply was not growing that fast.

The Central Bank reasoned at the time that lowering interest rates payable on current and demand accounts would of course convince customers to shift from this form of deposits to time deposits. To a certain extent the negative incentive worked, and the Central Bank was in a position to claim that it was controlling the money supply and consequently suppressing inflationary pressures.

However this policy outlived its original purpose, whether stated or implied. The rate of growth in money supply has already

dropped from the level of 25 per cent per annum when the measure was taken, to very low rates in the last five years of economic recession.

In reality, the purpose of the regulation has changed. It is now securing free or cheap funds for the commercial banks at the expense of the public. Such funds are now in excess of JD 300 million. At least half this amount would be earning interest if the Central Bank ceiling was removed.

Commercial banks do not maintain 100 per cent idle cash to meet current accounts. The funds are actually invested in bonds and interbank deposits at rates of interest ranging from 7.5 to 8.5 per cent. There is no harm if part of this yield was passed on to those who deserve it, namely the owners of the money.

It is not a secret that commercial banks, finance corporations and big depositors are getting around the regulation. They open time deposit accounts or deposits under one month or six months notice, with a gentleman agreement that the customer would have the right to withdraw funds at any time without penalty. In other words, these accounts are time deposits in form, and on demand in reality. Only small depositors and the few banks who respect the regulation and abide by restrictions are suffering.

Public interest and customers good do not call for preventing banks from paying reasonable interest on current accounts. This restriction should be removed along with all restrictions that we imposed on ourselves with no justification. Competition between banks is useful to the public and should be promoted. The notion that banks should be protected from their own management is no more acceptable.

## First no to land for peace, now no to peace for land

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — The current effort to find a way to peace in the Middle East faces a frustrating irony. Israel and the Arabs have to a degree exchanged the positions they held for many years. From the founding of the state in 1948, Israel sought face-to-face negotiation with its neighbours. The government repeatedly declared itself ready to meet with any Arab leaders, to talk without conditions. The Arabs spurned the idea. They would not meet or talk with Israeli officials. Indeed they often refused to use the word "Israel," speaking instead of "the Zionist entity" or some such thing.

In the war of June 1967, Israel captured the West Bank, the Golan Heights, Gaza and the Sinai. It then again sought direct talks. The nearly universal view in Israel was that the territories should be returned in a negotiated exchange for peace and security. U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 embraced that concept.

Again the Arab response was rejection. At the Khartoum summit meeting later in 1967, leaders of the Arab states adopted as their policy toward Israel what came to be called the Three No's: no negotiation, no peace, no recognition.

ognition.

That position has been transformed in recent years. In 1977 President Anwar Sadat went to Jerusalem. With the help of President Jimmy Carter, he and Prime Minister Menachem Begin reached the Camp David agreements. Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty, and Israel withdrew from the Sinai. It was exactly the formula Israel had envisaged: The exchange of land for peace.

No other Arab leader has made a dramatic gesture like Sadat's. But gradually the other neighbours have come to accept the inescapable reality of Israel. Their leaders no longer use insulting evasions to describe the state. In Amman and Damascus they speak of "the government of Israel." Jordan, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have all said they are ready to negotiate with Israel in the framework of an international conference. All have indicated that they are prepared to negotiate on the land-for-peace formula.

Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, reiterated recently that he accepts Resolution 242, with its call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory to "secure and recognised" borders. He said the PLO's policy is "land for peace."

But as the Arab parties have moved in one direction, the Israeli government has moved in the other — away from the principles that it established long ago.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rejects the land-for-peace principle. He rejects the proposed international conference. He rejects Resolution 242 as the world understands it, claiming that Israel's obligation under it was met by withdrawal from the Sinai. (Everyone involved in its passage says it applies to all the occupied territories).

When he was in the United States, Shamir emphasised his objections to the possible procedures of an international conference and to the timetable of Secretary of State George Shultz's peace plan. Those are fair points. But they are really irrelevant so long as Shamir rejects any further withdrawal from occupied territory. That would remove the subject matter from any negotiating table.

Israel refuses to talk with a crucial party on the Arab side, the PLO. Four months of protest in the West Bank and Gaza have made clearer than ever that Palestinians see it as their spokesman.

The objection to negotiating with the PLO is that it carries out "terrorism," like its recent attack

on a civilian bus near Dimona in Israel. But peace often requires negotiation between parties with each other's blood on their hands — the Sandinistas and the Contras, for example. The first step in the Middle East negotiating process would logically be the cessation of armed attacks of any kind.

But, sceptics will ask, can the Arabs be believed? Doesn't the PLO covenant still call for a secular Palestinian state where Israel is now?

Yehoshafat Harkabi, the former chief of Israeli military intelligence, answers that a dream of Israel's disappearance may continue, but that in practice Jordan and the PLO have adjusted to the realistic need for "political accommodation." And Israel must seize the opportunity that presents, he says:

"What is important to us is that the goal of eliminating Israel ceases to be 'policy,' as distinguished from 'grand design.' There is no way of extinguishing a people's vicious dreams, which are liable to persist even after political accommodation. A political settlement eventually uproots the vicious dreams and cancels them out, while lack of political accommodation establishes and reinforces them." — The New York Times.

## Confronting Cassandra

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Rabbi Bruce M. Cohen

LIKE CASSANDRA, the Greek prophetess of doom and destruction, the vast majority of Israeli Jewish citizens, government leaders and even Diaspora Jews have already said *Kaddish* (the prayer for the dead) over Jewish-Arab relations.

The uprising on the West Bank and Gaza strongly confirms, for this chorus of Cassandra's, that harmonious Jewish-Arab relations were an illusory and unattainable dream in our lifetime. In unison, they declare that Israeli Arabs have failed the "litmus test" of loyalty to the State of Israel by demonstrating their solidarity with their Palestinian brothers.

An entire community of 700,000 Israeli Arabs are condemned and considered collectively guilty when a handful of social misfits commit violent acts threatening the public safety of all citizens, Jews and Arabs alike. The ubiquitous national and international media magnify these isolated incidents of anti-social behaviour, thereby distorting reality.

A snowball is now in motion. It is time to confront Cassandra's cry before it is too late and Israeli society witnesses a self-fulfilled prophecy of doom.

It is neither a new phenomenon nor a radical turning point when Israel's Arabs conduct a non-violent strike to identify with their Palestinian brethren. During the past 20 years of occupation, Israeli Arabs have consistently answered, in numerous surveys and forums, "yes" to a Palestinian state and "no" to immigrating to this new state. Peace Day (December 21), Land Day (March 30), and other strike days will continue to be declared by Israeli Arab citizens.

In the Wadi Ara area, a model for maintaining public safety dur-

ing these days of heightened tension has been established by veteran co-existence activist and Interns for Peace board member Mahmud Yunis. A joint Jewish-Arab Peace Patrol presently polices this major artery leading to the Galilee.

The fact that the uprising has occurred is not a measure of the effectiveness of groups seeking Jewish-Arab co-existence. None of them ever operated on the West Bank or in Gaza as all of them were founded on the principle that true cooperation can only be established between two peoples who are equal.

**"Israeli Arabs walk the tightrope between being citizens who want to remain with full rights in the State of Israel, and being part of the Palestinian people who want to identify with their brothers on the West Bank and in Gaza."**

In fact, during the first 100 days of the uprising, there has been no measurable decrease in Israeli Arab participation in such groups. Israeli Arabs continue to be steadfast supporters of programs fostering better majority-minority relations. On the other hand, Israeli Jewish involvement has dramatically decreased — in some cases by more than 50 per cent.

This outright rejection by the Jewish majority and forthright acceptance by the Arab minority of co-existence follows the normative pattern of majority-minority relations. Namely, in every nation-state, the "minority" is always more desirous of positive interaction than is the "majority." Yet, Israel's Jewish majority and Arab minority are unique.

Comprising 82 per cent of all citizens in the country, Israeli Jews have been a majority for 40 years but a minority for over 2,000 years, bearing deep and fresh psychological wounds from the Holocaust and from persecution in North Africa, Yemen and

other countries. In political terms, the Jewish majority of Israel is a besieged and threatened minority in the Middle East.

Israeli Arabs walk the tightrope between being citizens who want to remain with full rights in the State of Israel, and being part of the Palestinian people who want to identify with their brothers on the West Bank and in Gaza. Hence, Israeli Jews feel, think and act as if they are the minority and as if Israeli Arabs and their Palestinian relatives are the majority.

The confrontation between

many of the Arab children began to cry when they saw that their "partners" had not come to visit them. Natan Kedem, principal of Kfar Sava's Sharon School, and Mohammed Qashua, principal of Tira's Al Omariya School, were also upset.

Kedem called each of the parents who had kept their children from participating: "You should allow your child to go," he urged. "Do not teach them 'ghetto' fear. We are at home in this state." At the next such programme, 34 out of 40 pupils from Kfar Sava came to visit their Arab friends in Tira.

Jews and Arabs are either going to learn how to cooperate and coexist together or die together. The uprising demonstrates that major changes in human history are often initiated by the people — especially by youth — and that the leaders safely follow behind. If there is to be a reconciliation of these two peoples, we have to start with Israel's *shabab* — the youth, Jewish and Arab — by changing their perceptions of each other. This is a difficult and time-consuming process. But, then, there are no easy answers or quick solutions to resolving human conflicts.

Only by learning how to relate to their fellow Israeli Arab citizens will the Israeli Jewish majority be able to bridge the ever-widening gap between them and the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza, as well as those in the Arab World.

As David Shipper writes in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in the Promised Land*: "Whatever happens in war or diplomacy, whatever territory is won or lost, whatever accommodation or compromises are finally made, the future guarantees that Arabs and Jews will remain close neighbours in each other's fears. They will not escape from one another. They will not find peace in treaties, or in victories. They will find it, if at all, by looking into each other's eyes."

Open letter to Mr. Joe Clark,

Canadian external affairs secretary

### Admiration for a courageous stand

EXCERPTS of your speech made to the annual conference of the Canadian-Israeli committee on March 10 appearing in the Jordan Times on March 23, 1988 prompted me to take the liberty of addressing this letter to Your Excellency to express my admiration for your courageous stand on the uprising in the occupied territories.

"A generation bred under occupation has declared its determination to resist. One fears that physically crushing it could have even more tragic results than the persistence of unrest. There is no turning back." As so clearly stated by you, and diagnosed clearly this is a national liberation movement (popularly known as Intifada). This Intifada, is the resistance by people under occupation, to the occupying forces. A legitimate right granted by the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the subsequent proclamation of the U.N. General Assembly.

It is worthwhile to recall that in 1973, the General Assembly of the U.N. further proclaimed the following basic principles of the legal status of combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination of racist regimes. These principles are:

1) The struggle of peoples under colonial and alien domination and racist regimes for the implementation of their right to self-determination and independence is legitimate and in full accordance with the principles of international law.

2) Any attempt to suppress the struggle against such domination and against racist regimes is incompatible with the Charter, the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among states in accordance with the Charter of the U.N., the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

3) Armed conflicts involving the struggle of peoples against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes are to be regarded as international armed conflicts in the sense of the 1949 Geneva Convention, and the legal status envisaged to apply to the combatants in these conventions and other international instruments is to apply to the persons engaged in such struggle.

4) The combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes captured as prisoners are to be accorded the status of prisoners of war and their treatment should be in accordance with the provisions of the third Geneva Convention of 12th August 1949.

5) The use of mercenaries by colonial and racist regimes against the national liberation movements struggling for their freedom and independence from colonialism and alien domination is considered to be a criminal act.

6) The violation of the legal status of the combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes in the course of armed conflicts entails full responsibility in accordance with the norms of international law.

Israel, though a signatory to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, is not abiding by its articles, and your recommendation that Israel abide by these conventions is most opportune, especially your plea that they show vision and compassion and the strength to make decisions required to ensure that Palestinians are treated more humanely and that human rights are respected in the territories.

Your statement of the Canadian policy towards this question is commendable, especially your stand on the human rights issue which you say the Canadian people see as "neither divisible nor negotiable."

Last but not least, your upholding of the position that the "Palestinians have legitimate individual and collective rights, including those to a homeland within a clearly defined territory, the West Bank and Gaza Strip..." goes far to translate your clear perception of the situation in the occupied territories, due to the intransigence of the Israeli government on this matter.

Accept, sir my respects.

Ebad Farwaj  
Member of Parliament  
Jerusalem/Jericho District

### Shamir's discomfort

The following column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak headlined "appeared in the Washington Post of March 21:

Shultz decided not to give Shamir another bouquet he really wanted from his visit: A memorandum of agreement on the so-called "strategic" relationship between Washington and Jerusalem. The reason was simple: Shamir would use it as proof that the U.S. peace plan was only propaganda and politics and that the reality of U.S. sentiment was the memorandum.

Shultz did make a few concessions, but since what Shamir wanted was the peace plan dead, Shultz could not give enough. He addressed Shamir's alarms about the Soviets having too much power in the proposed international conference by promising it could not be convened without agreement by both cosponsors, Shamir shrugged.

He offered a signed understanding with Israel spelling out a common U.S.-Israel position on certain aspects of the international conference. Shamir said no. The reason was that he feared an agreement might make it look as though he was starting to desert his party's anti-conference position.

Shamir was uncomfortable throughout his visit from the moment after he left the roaring approval of his UJA speech to his departure from Washington Thursday. He even sent a very private apology to Shultz. He had been embarrassed by an accurate report in Haaretz just before he left Israel that quoted him as insulting Shultz. In it, Shamir excoriated the Shultz peace plan, said that "the only word in the Shultz plan I accept is his signature," and that the real purpose of the plan was to "curry favour with the Arabs."

That left George Shultz on high ground following the prime minister's visit and Shamir in the trenches. The real surprise was that for the first time in many years Israel failed to deliver the usual knockout punch on a visit here. That shows deep and unaccustomed questioning of Israel's conduct in the West Bank and Gaza, by the American Jewish Community and the pro-Israel bloc in Congress.

Shultz may not get Shamir to accept his plan for an overdue Palestinian homeland, but he showed Shamir how it feels to get pounded, always politely.



## U.S. sees its Mideast plan as only workable approach

WASHINGTON (USA) — The Middle East peace initiative put forward by the United States "disfills the interests of the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict," provides a viable basis for forward movement and "is the only realistic and workable approach available," according to a senior State Department official.

The official spoke with reporters Friday, at a State Department background briefing on the peace process and Secretary of State George Shultz's trip to the Middle East next week. Shultz is scheduled to arrive in Israel Sunday and will subsequently visit Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Shultz will be discussing the U.S. peace initiative with leaders in the region "to determine exactly the evolution of the position in each country," the senior official said. "If anyone is in a position to give us a definitive 'yes' that would be extremely welcome," he said, adding, "I can't tell you if that's possible at this point."

"But certainly the objective of U.S. diplomacy is to get a 'yes' from the parties to this U.S. proposal," the official said. "The fundamental approach that we've adopted has not been rejected by any party."

The U.S. proposal "is so constructed to balance the interests of the two sides," he said, "so that it really doesn't make either side very happy with the proposal because it doesn't really respond fully to the position of either side. If it did, it would not be a viable negotiating instrument."

Characterising the U.S. proposal as "a compromise and a blend of positions that provides a very realistic base to make forward movement on a negotiating process," the official said "the beauty of it is that it cannot be accused of clientism."

"In other words, it does not defend the interests of only one side against the other," he said.

"It disfills the interests of the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and therefore provides a very viable basis for forward movement. And the president and the secretary are committed to following it through," the official said.

"If the parties had rejected the proposal — if anyone had slammed the door in our face — maybe the secretary, at that point, would have not thought

it very wise to make this trip. But that's simply not the case," he said.

### Plan in its 'entirety'

The United States has never deviated from its "very firm commitment to the U.S. proposal in its entirety," the official said, but "that doesn't mean we have a closed mind. If anybody comes up with an idea or a modification that makes sense, that can enhance the peace process, we'll take a serious look at that."

Shultz "hopes to spark renewed interest in early decisions" by the parties on the proposal," he said. "He will be seeking positive public statements about the U.S. proposal, and in his own statements, he will be stressing that our initiative presents an opportunity for peace that should not be missed."

He reiterated the administration's view that the U.S. initiative "is and remains an integrated package. No part can be removed or changed without destroying its essential balance. As the president said, we will not slice this initiative apart and will not abandon it."

"The basic fact remains that no party has said 'no' to the United States on the U.S. initiative. That includes all the parties we've been dealing with, including President Hafez Al Assad of Syria," he declared. "Each one of the parties has agreed to the secretary's coming out again, has welcomed the opportunity to have further discussions with the secretary of state on the peace process, and no one has told the United States that the negotiating ball is no longer in play."

When a reporter asked if Shultz will be asking leaders in the region for a public "yes" or "no" to the U.S. proposal, the official replied: "We would be delighted to get a definitive 'yes' from the parties to this proposal."

"I don't think the secretary is going to be pushing the parties for a 'yes' or 'no,'" the official added. "His initial approach on this trip is to get a reading from them on exactly how their thinking has evolved, how their position has evolved."

He said Shultz would certainly try to encourage Jordan, Israel and the other parties "to rapidly evolve their thinking and their position and their decision-making on this proposal."

so that we can get affirmative responses to move this process forward."

### 'Misunderstandings'

Asserting that some of the criticisms voiced about the U.S. initiative "are either based on misunderstandings or misperceptions of what the proposal actually entails and what it means," the official said three issues are central to the process of bringing about negotiations between Israel and the Arabs: — A properly structured international conference.

— Palestinian representation, and

— The meaning of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

"The conference that some are opposing is simply not the conference we are proposing, and that should be absolutely clear," the senior official said. "Under the procedures set out under our proposal, the parties would move quickly to direct negotiations within a properly structured international conference."

"The conference we propose would not impose solutions, nor would it have any veto authority," he explained in outlining the U.S. initiative in some detail. "It would launch direct negotiations and would receive reports from the parties to the negotiations in a manner to be agreed by the parties themselves."

"Those invited to the conference must accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis of negotiations, and must renounce violence and terrorism," he emphasised.

Under the U.S. proposal, the secretary general of the United Nations would be asked to issue invitations to the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

**Palestinian representation**

On Palestinian representation, the senior official said: "Everyone agreed that the Palestinians are a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict who must be represented at every stage of the negotiating process. Everyone also agrees that a settlement must address the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in the same way that it addresses the legitimate rights of the other negotiating parties."

Those who come to negotiate must be of good will and be interested in peace.

Under the U.S. proposal, he said, Palestinian representatives would participate in negotiations as part of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Palestinian issue would be addressed in direct negotiations between the Israeli delegation and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The meaning of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 "is the primary substantive issue confronting the parties," he declared. "It's important because the parties must understand the accepted basis for negotiations and must share essentially the same view of what the parameters of a final settlement must be."

**'Territory for peace'**

"Clearly, one of (Resolution) 242's central principles is negotiations involving an exchange of territory for peace," the official pointed out. "The U.S. position is that in return for peace, the withdrawal provision of 242 applies to all fronts, including the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights."

Stressing that the U.S. approach is "a comprehensive one," the official said it was "a negotiating approach that involves settlements on all of Israel's borders, including Lebanon, Syria and Jordan."

In the U.S. view, he said, "the extent to which Israel should be asked to give up territory will be heavily affected by the extent of true peace and normalisation and the security arrangements offered in return."

The senior official said Shultz would not be "soliciting specific meetings with Palestinians" during his forthcoming trip, but he remains "very willing" to meet with Palestinian representatives.

He emphasised that "it is really up to the Arab side" to define the issue of which Palestinians will be included in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will sit down and negotiate with Israel.

"The point we're making is," he said, "if there is a real political will to engage in negotiations on the part of the Arabs and the Palestinians, that the choice of those individuals should be such that they don't drive the Israeli side away from the negotiating table."

"And therefore, when we

talk about appropriate Palestinians, that's what we mean," he explained. "I think that's a very reasonable approach toward negotiations involving this issue."

He said the Israelis had made very clear their opposition to the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in an international conference or in direct peace negotiations with Israel. "That is why we think our formula is a reasonably balanced approach to overcome the problem of who represents the Palestinians."

"If this process evolves further, obviously this issue is going to have to be faced directly and early on. And that is the role of the Arab side — especially King Hussein and President Mubarak — to work out the arrangements for the composition of the Palestinian delegation," the senior official said. "You can't prejudice that at this point."

"The PLO knows very well what the conditions are for participation in the international conference," the official said in response to persistent questioning from Arab journalists. "The PLO also knows very well what the conditions are to enter into a dialogue with the United States — acceptance of 242, 338 and recognition of the right of the state of Israel to exist."

He said Chairman Yasser Arafat's statements that the PLO accepts Resolutions 242, 338 and all other relevant U.N. resolutions were unacceptable because "no one knows what he means by that," and it creates "a huge loophole because if you put all U.N. resolutions into the equation, many of them cancel each other out... and some of them are very partisan in nature vis-a-vis the state of Israel. So really, that is not the proper basis for the PLO to move forward."

During Shultz's forthcoming visit, the situation on the West Bank and Gaza will be also discussed, the official said. "The secretary's basic approach to that very important issue is that there really is not a military solution to the unrest in the occupied territories, but only a political solution."

The question of Saudi Arabia's acquisition of Chinese-made intermediate-range ballistic missiles is also expected to be a subject of conversation during the secretary's trip, the official said.

## Ex-generals of Israel to press for peace in return for territories

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Eleven ex-generals and senior officers of the Israeli army, led by former chief of military intelligence Ahron Yaviv, have formed an organisation to press the Israeli government to accept the principle of exchanging territories for peace, the Jerusalem Post reported Friday.

The Council for Peace and Security declared at its opening session at Tel Aviv University last week that Israel could withdraw from the territories and still remain secure.

"We have the technology to confront Arab armies on the battlefields of the future even if we give up the territories," said Motti Hod, the former commander of the air force and the current chairman of Israel Aircraft Industries. "I am willing to give up territory as long as we have four or five early warning stations."

While sharing a commitment to "territorial compromise," the council's members offered varying opinions on the future control of the West Bank and Gaza.

Hod rejected the establishment of a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan. Yaviv, head of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at the university, proposed that Israel should be allowed to retain a small military force in the territories, although the territories would be under foreign political control.

Among the other members of the organisation are Yitzhak Hafi, former head of the Mossad; Avraham Adan, the national police controller; and Moshe Amirav, who was forced to leave Herut recently after meeting with leading Palestinians.

Yaviv said the council planned to spread the idea of territorial compromise through the media and through lectures and seminars.

## Peking sends special envoy to S. Arabia

PEKING (Agencies) — China has sent a special envoy to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and indicated they would discuss the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) said Saturday that Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan, acting as special envoy for President Li Xiannian, flew from Istanbul to Saudi Arabia Friday.

"China and Saudi Arabia have not established diplomatic relations yet but bilateral relations have been strengthened in recent years," the agency commented. Qi is the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Saudi Arabia, it said.

It disclosed that Saudi Arabia's agriculture minister visited China "not long ago" and delivered two messages from King Fahd to President Li on the Gulf war and the Middle East.

China's envoy would give Li's reply to King Fahd, the agency added.

Last week China revealed it had sold powerful medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia, its first sale of such ground-to-ground rockets.

The sale raised protests from the United States which saw it as further surface-to-surface missile proliferation.

Western diplomats said the issue would complicate Sino-U.S. relations, already troubled by China's alleged sales of Silk Worm missiles to Iran.

China has also sold large quantities of weapons to Iraq during the eight-year-old Gulf war, Western diplomats say.

### U.S. removes Horan

In a related development, the United States said Friday it has removed its ambassador to Saudi Arabia but denied a report the decision was provoked by the Saudi purchase of Chinese missiles or taken at King Fahd's request.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters that Hume Horan, U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia since last September, was in Washington "in consultations" with senior

State Department officials and would not return to his post.

"He will be here for the next week or so... he is leaving his post," she said. No replacement has been named.

A senior U.S. official, who requested anonymity, said the decision to recall Horan was made before Washington knew of China's missile sales to Saudi Arabia, but acknowledged tensions had existed between Horan and Saudi leaders.

A third U.S. official denied a newspaper report King Fahd had asked Washington to replace Horan.

"The Saudis did not specifically ask us to remove him," he said, adding the recall was unlikely to harm a planned visit to Saudi Arabia by Secretary of State George Shultz next week.

"He (Shultz) is still going there," the official said. "Hume was back in town before he left the country."

Shultz already expressed U.S. concern about the Saudi purchase of Chinese missiles when he met in Washington earlier this month with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian.

Conservative Republican Senator Jesse Helms called for a hearing by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to discuss the implications of the new Saudi missiles and the reported failure by U.S. intelligence to detect the purchase from China for some two years.

"We are also deeply concerned that the Saudis hid the fact that they possess these weapons," a letter sent by Helms said.

Meanwhile, 32 senators urged the government to pressure the Saudis to withdraw the missiles.

The letter from the senators said the administration should reconsider a \$450-million support package of training and maintenance for AWACS radar surveillance planes. The administration has not yet asked officially for congressional approval of the package.

## Iran said to want France to deport dissident cleric

BEIRUT (AP) — Iran has asked France to deport an anti-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim cleric as a precondition for its help in releasing French hostages held in Lebanon, the weekly Al Shiraa magazine reported Saturday.

It said negotiations between Paris and Tehran for the release of French diplomat Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann "have made big progress."

The magazine added: "It is very likely that the French authorities would deport Ayatollah Mahdi Rouhani in return for the release of the three hostages."

Iran's main aim at present is the deportation of Rouhani, "the mufti of the Shi'ites in Europe," the weekly reported.

Al Shiraa gained international fame in November 1986 when it

made the first disclosure that the United States was secretly selling arms to Iran in return for the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists. Rouhani, who has lived in France for several years, is known for his opposition to Iran's aging patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

He caused a stir earlier this year when he announced that Imam Musa Sadr, missing spiritual head of Lebanon's Shi'ite sect, would appear in Egypt soon. Musa Sadr mysteriously vanished during a visit to Libya in 1978. Lebanese Shi'ites accused Libya of holding him. The Libyans denied that.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) has attacked Rouhani and accused him of "fabricating" reports about Musa

Sadr's return.

Al Shiraa's report fuelled speculation that Iran and France were negotiating for the hostages' release.

Despite unequivocal French denials, speculation heightened March 24 when a French court, citing lack of evidence, released a Lebanese Shi'ite held on suspicion of involvement in bombings in Paris in 1986.

Beirut newspapers last week linked the release of Mohammad Moubajer with "secret negotiations" reported to be under way for the release of the Frenchmen. Hezbollah, made up of radical Shi'ites loyal to Khomeini, is believed to be an umbrella group for pro-Iranian factions holding hostages in Lebanon.

One of these, Islamic Jihad, claims it holds Carton, Fontaine

and Kauffmann, who were kidnapped in west Beirut in 1985.

The group claimed March 5, 1986, that it had killed another French captive, researcher Michel Seurat, kidnapped with Kauffmann, in retaliation for France's deportation of two pro-Iranian Iraqi Shi'ite dissidents to Baghdad. But no body has been found.

Eighteen other foreigners are missing in Lebanon — nine Americans, three Britons, a West German, an Italian, an Irishman, an Indian and two unidentified men.

Rouhani said Saturday he was unaware of any demands by Iran that he be expelled from France. But he said he was ready to go.

Rouhani said he did not know Al Shiraa and could not judge the veracity of its article.

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## Veto threat hangs over U.S. trade bill

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, upset with several "killer" provisions in the U.S. trade bill now before Congress, may veto the massive legislation unless last-minute changes are made.

The administration made a frontal assault on the bill — virtually completed Thursday before Congress began an Easter recess — with several officials making strong attacks on the measure Friday.

"We still have grave reservations about several of the provisions," White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater told reporters on Air Force One as Reagan began a 10-day California holiday.

"If substantial changes aren't made... the president's senior advisers will recommend a veto," he said.

A key White House participant in the negotiations with Congress, U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter, said there are several "killer" provisions that are likely to provoke a presidential veto.

Issues singled out by the administration include the three-year ban on U.S. government purchases of products made by Japan's Toshiba Corp.

The sanction, which also applies to Kongsberg Vapenfabrik of Norway, was included by lawmakers upset with the two companies for selling advanced technology to the Soviet Bloc.

The Pentagon claims the sales enabled the Kremlin to build submarines that are more difficult for the United States to detect.

The administration also is unhappy with language in the bill covering presidential authority in trade issues and with mandatory investigations into countries that have "numerous and pervasive" policies against U.S. competitors.

The mandatory probes had been intended as a compromise to the harsher language proposed by former presidential candidate Richard Gephardt, a congressman from Missouri.

Yeutter, in a U.S. television interview, said the administration was assessing the massive bill.

Asked about a section that requires large companies to provide 60-day notice before closing

a plant, Yeutter said: "That one is probably a killer provision." "Unless that is jettisoned... right after Easter, it will probably justify a veto," he said, adding, "there may be one or two other provisions in that same category."

Labour Secretary Ann McLaughlin joined in the fray, saying: "It's the wrong approach at the wrong time and it just doesn't make sense."

Yeutter also said "there are several provisions... that standing alone would not justify a veto, but if one adds them together in a package, they may well do so."

Since the House and Senate each operate under different rules, the process for amending the bill now would be highly complex.

### No more duty-free

In addition, Yeutter threatened Friday to end duty-free trade status for Thailand unless it took steps to stop the piracy of U.S. patents, copyrights and other intellectual property rights.

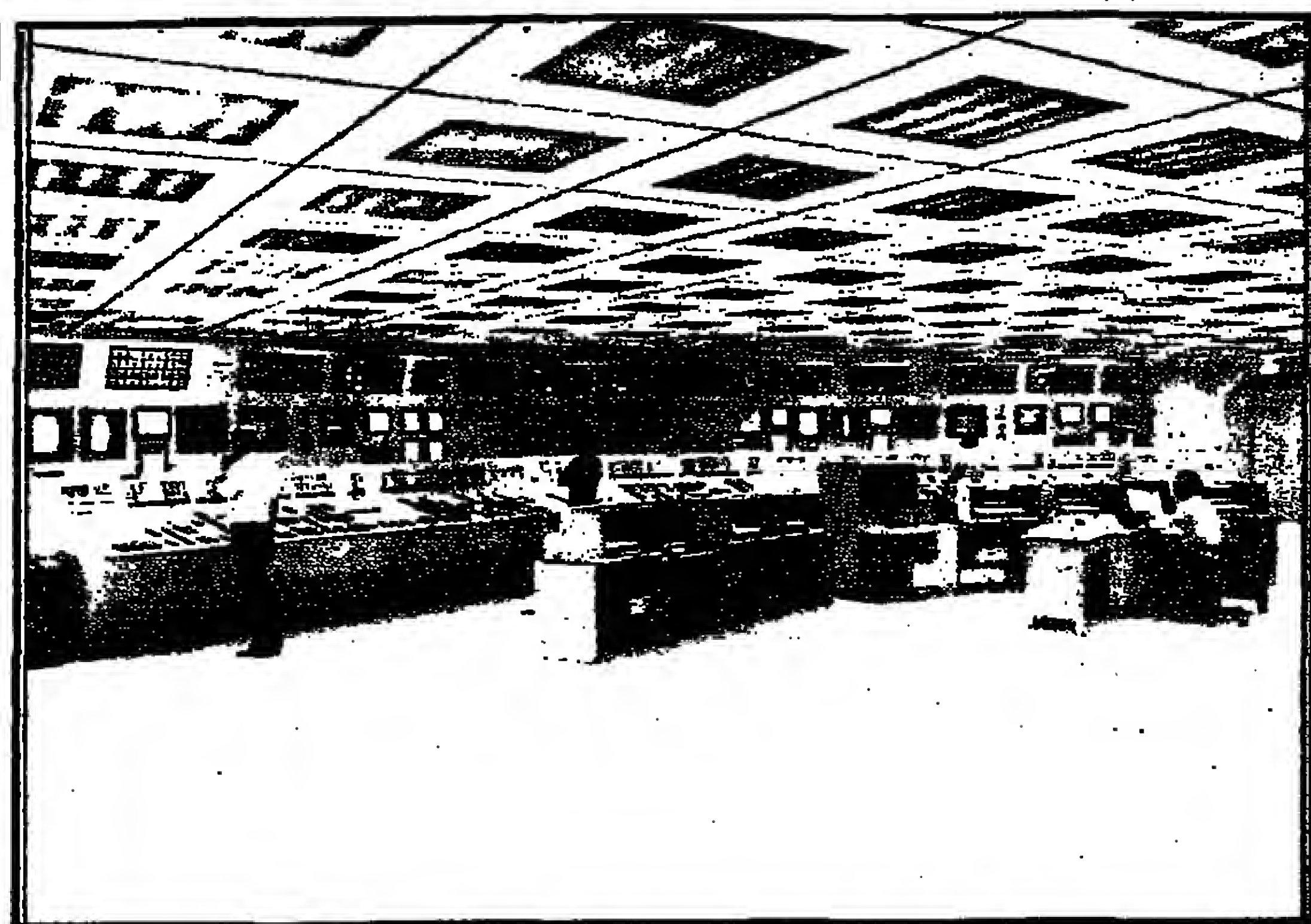
Yeutter also announced that \$1.1 billion worth of imports from developing nations would be denied duty-free status under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), starting on July 1.

Yeutter said the United States would continue to review Thailand's practices in protecting intellectual property rights until a Dec. 15 deadline. The review was based on complaints by U.S. companies of Thai piracy.

Thailand's duty-free exports to the United States were worth \$551 million last year, up from \$351 million in 1986.

The countries hardest hit by the new loss of preferences are Taiwan, Singapore, Mexico, South Korea and Hong Kong.

President Reagan decided to remove the duty-free status on grounds that the nations were competitive enough in some exports to compete worldwide without duty-free preferences.



The Thermal Control Room at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (File photo)

## Al Risheh gas assumes high profile in Jordan's energy future

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) hopes that the new natural gas discovery in the Kingdom will help its quest to develop local energy resources and alleviate Jordan's dependence on imported sources of energy, according to a senior JEA official.

JEA Assistant Director-General Walid Jaouni confirmed that plans to expand the installed production capacity at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS) had been "indefinitely postponed." He said that any decision on the issue would depend upon two factors: definite results of exploration work at the Al Risheh gas wells near the border with Iraq, and whether the national demand for electricity registers an increase that warrants expanded generation.

In an exclusive interview Thursday, Jaouni noted that the JEA had already arranged for the procurement and installation of two 30-megawatt gas turbine power generation units at the Al Risheh wells and work was progressing on a two-stage 310-kilometre-long transmission line to link the Risheh facility with the national grid. He said work on the 132-kilovolt transmission line was expected to be completed by October and the gas turbine units were expected to be operational by end of this year. He disclosed that the total cost of the project — the generation units and the transmission line — was \$30 million.

Asked about the estimates of daily production and reserves of gas at Al Risheh, Jaouni referred the Jordan Times to the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), which is in charge of exploration work at the site. But he said indications were "promising".

(The Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported in mid-March that the gas field was expected to provide about 10 per cent of the fuel needed for electricity generation in Jordan and initial production was expected to be about 15 million cubic feet a day, equivalent to 2,500 barrels a day of crude oil.)

Asked whether the MEES figures were accurate, Jaouni said: "We are updating the figures almost every day drawing from the results of exploration work and it is difficult to cite any figures." Canada's Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation is assisting the NRA in the exploration work.



Walid Jaouni

Jaouni said the possibilities of high natural gas reserves at Al Risheh and a "lower than expected rate of growth in demand" for electricity in the country were the main reasons for the postponement of a project to increase the installed capacity at the ATPS from 260 megawatts to 520 megawatts as the second phase at the facility. The first phase, comprising of two 130-megawatt fuel-run generators, went into operation in November 1986.

At present, JEA and other producers in the public and private sector have a combined installed capacity of 979 megawatts. According to Jaouni, these facilities, coupled with the Al Risheh units, will take care of Jordan's needs of electricity until 1992-1993 given the present rate of growth in demand.

A breakdown of the present installed capacity shows that facilities totalling 696 megawatts are run on steam; 182 megawatts on gas; 94 megawatts on diesel and hydro-electric projects account for seven megawatts.

Figures obtained by the Jordan Times indicated that the country spent about 7.2 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP) for its needs of energy in 1987, against 5.7 per cent in 1986, or 59 per cent of national exports as against 47 per cent in 1986.

The transport sector accounted for 39 per cent of total oil consumed in 1987, followed by the electricity production sector (27 per cent), the industrial sector (17 per cent), domestic sector (nine per cent) and others (eight per cent).

"If the reserves at Al Risheh are big enough, arrangements could be made to supply natural gas to the main industries in Jordan, whether for electricity generation or for any other purpose," Jaouni said. "We are optimistic," he added.

Jaouni said the JEA was engaged in a continuous process of

absorbing the most up-to-date technology and improving the performance of its facilities, as well as personnel, in a bid to bring down dependence on imported energy needs.

The authority has one of the most advanced computer networks in the country. Housed in the JEA headquarters building in Amman, the computer is accessible to almost every field station, including those in far-flung Aqaba, Irbid, Karak, Zarqa and other regions, Jaouni said. In addition, the JEA central control centre in Amman South is fully computerised with complete field communication facilities with automatic fault-finding and correcting systems.

### Links with Syria and Egypt

The JEA continued seasonal power supply to Syria in 1987 and also expanded the transmission network that links the power grids of the two countries, Jaouni said.

The authority has entrusted a French firm with carrying out a detailed feasibility study on linking the national electricity networks of Jordan and Egypt. An outline of the envisaged project presented by Jaouni indicated that it entails laying about 12 kilometres of underwater cables from Aqaba to the tip of the Sinai Peninsula and a further, as yet undetermined, length of overhead transmission lines through Sinai. "We carried out a preliminary study and before enlisting the French firm," Jaouni said. "The details, including financing, will emerge only after completion of the detailed feasibility study," he added.

Other projects undertaken by the JEA include joint work with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and technical organisations in exploring possibilities of alternate sources of energy. Jaouni noted that the JEA has already launched a pilot project in wind energy. The authority is also working in the field of solar energy.

Jaouni also mentioned oil shale as a potential source of energy. But, he said, "we are still in the research stage, and it will be some time before anything specific could be said."

According to the JEA assistant director-general, Jordan now enjoys an excellent reputation over its achievements in the electricity sector in the Arab World. He pointed out that the JEA had undertaken electrification projects in Mauritania in cooperation with a foreign company and was providing power-related computer technology to North Yemen.

## Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 26, '88 and ending Wednesday, March 30, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	700	946	1.340	1.360	1,000
Petra Bank	3042	6046	1.990	2.000	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1985	3372	1.740	1.680	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	3630	5720	1.600	1.550	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	11225	13036	1.200	1.180	1,000
Housing Bank	2100	3442	1.680	1.650	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	10300	21630	2.100	2.100	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	250	7500	30.000	30.000	5,000
Bank of Jordan	1778	27838	16.100	15.150	5,000
Arab Bank	1030	116950	114.750	113.750	10,000
Jordan National Bank	4965	12199	2.470	2.460	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	9530	11043	1.160	1.160	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	4278	6859	1.860	1.870	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	20300	11514	0.580	0.570	1,000
National Financial Investments	3950	7153	1.800	1.820	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	6800	5364	0.810	0.770	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)					1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation					2,000
Al Mashrek Exchange					10,000
<b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>					
Jordan French Insurance	8518	44308	5.200	5.300	1,000
REFCO Life Insurance					1,000
Jordan Insurance					1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance					1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	275	301	1.080	1.100	1,000
Holy Land Insurance					1,000
Philadelphian Insurance	5400	3847	0.680	0.820	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance					1,000
Jerusalem Insurance					1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance					1,000
Universal Insurance	206560	227505	0.910	1.230	1,000
General Insurance					10,000
Jordan Eagle Insurance					10,000
Middle East Insurance					1,000
Al-Izhar Insurance					1,000
National Ahliya Insurance	1075	1366	1.280	1.280	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance					1,000
<b>Services and industries</b>					
General Investments	5816	7676	1.320	1.320	1,000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	687	400	0.600	0.580	1,000
Duro for Housing and Investment	17022	7576	0.450	0.450	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqara)	2250	910	0.420	0.400	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	5950	1909	0.330	0.330	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	5866	4537	0.750	0.800	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments					1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeeroo	1600	501	0.820	0.820	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	7912	11521	1.460	1.420	1,000
Irbid District Electricity					1,000
Arab International Hotels					1,000
Hotels and Tourism					1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office					1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines					1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	7100	24820	3.200	3.200	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing					1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	8000	3088	0.390	0.380	1,000
Jordan Dairy	5653	5687	1.010	1.000	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	6477	13264	2.060	2.010	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	114678	162716	1.480	1.380	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	811	1784	2.260	2.200	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Itaja)	625	831	1.400	1.330	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries					1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products					1,000
Aladdin Industries	36875	49832	1.370	1.350	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	25465	46492	1.860	1.780	1,000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	480	1700	4.300	4.250	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	1700	1756	1.050	1.030	1,000
Chemical Industries	34850	58390	1.700	1.660	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	6100	4269	0.710	0.690	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	27170	40428	1.470	1.480	1,000
National Steel Industries	60232	171280	2.870	2.790	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	18700	31557	1.760	1.650	5,000
General Mining	140	196	1.450	1.400	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3265	23034	7.060	7.020	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	237900	56331	0.240	0.230	1,000
National Industries	775	394	0.500	0.500	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading					1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	250	323	1.330	1.290	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	32250	22692	0.750	0.770	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	8050	9261	1.170	1.150	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags					1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1750	5247	3.150	2.820	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	22200	13773	0.640	0.590	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research					1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral					1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory					1,000
Woolen Industries	550	468	0.850	0.850	1,000
Jordan Tanning	1212	2361	1.950	1.930	5,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	242	964	3.960	4.000	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette					1,000
Mas Industries					1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	16504	16349	1.000	0.980	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	20512	18726	0.930	0.890	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	27241	71955	2.980	2.870	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	48254	51143	1.090	1.050	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	7445	7469	1.000	0.980	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries					1,000
Grand total	1,185,909	1,499,784			

## Iran import collapse hits Turkish Black Sea ports

By Hugh Pope  
Reuters

TRABZON, Turkey — Newly-built docks lie idle and truck traffic has dried up along the ancient trade route from Turkey's Black Sea coast to Iran.

Iran's purchases through Turkey have plummeted 89 per cent since 1984, bringing transit traffic to Iran down to just 308,000 tonnes in 1987, Turkey's International Transport Association said.

Worst hit are the Black Sea ports of Trabzon — Ancient Trebizond — Hopa and Samsun, which used to handle two-thirds of transit traffic to Iran and a much smaller amount to Iraq. "Everyone has a truck, nobody has anything to transport," said Tayfun Sezeroglu, president of Trabzon's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Trucks loaded just 31,000 tonnes of goods at Trabzon in 1987 compared to 717,000 tonnes in 1984, leaving a new World Bank-

financed container port to await better days.

A lone Iran-flag ship in the easternmost port of Hopa unloaded 40,000 tonnes of Canadian wheat for Iran last week, but such shipments are increasingly rare.

Rates to transport the wheat to Iran's northeastern city of Tabriz are half those of five years ago in real terms and trucking agencies mill with unemployed truckers.

The small port close to the Soviet border is almost totally reliant on transit. Its transit shipments fell from 587,000 tonnes in 1984 to only 82,000 in 1987.

"It's a problem for the whole Black Sea coast," said Bahattin Bayrak, a dealer in truck spare parts and president of Hopa's Chamber of Commerce.

Figures for 1987 are not available for the western Black Sea port of Samsun, but officials say 1984's 508,000 tonnes of transit goods, mainly for Iran, had all but dried up.

The Hopa-Erzurum-Iran road — part of the old silk route used since the dawn of commerce in the region — is preferred because passes are rarely closed by snow.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

**CITY DEVELOPMENT:** The Cities and Villages Development Bank last year gave a total of JD 66 million in loans to various municipalities and village councils in the Kingdom, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber. The minister, speaking at a seminar held at Al Dastour Arabic daily, said that the loans were used to finance the purchase of land for public use, road construction and various municipal services.

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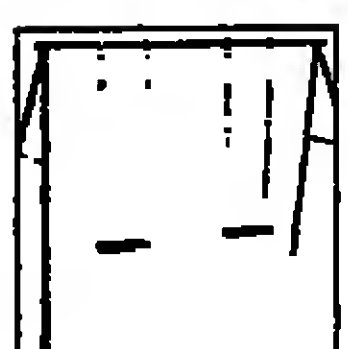
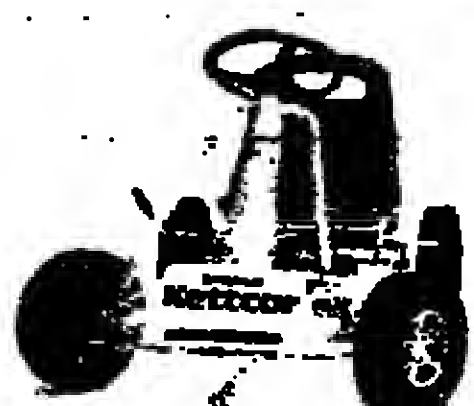
Tender documents are obtainable against the payment of a non-refundable sum of JD 25 from the Tenders Department at the Water Authority's main office in Amman. Bids are due not later than 1200 hours Jordan local time Tuesday 12/4/1988.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi  
Secretary General

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### CONCORD







# U.S. doubles security forces in Panama

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States, concerned at mounting tension with Panama, is doubling its military police force in the canal zone to more than 2,500 men.

Defence officials in Washington and Panama City said the troops were needed to protect the canal. U.S. civilians and U.S. private interests.

The U.S. Defence Department said Friday that it plans to send army, air force and marine corps military police, 27 additional helicopters, 15 Blackhawk troop-carrying planes, seven Cobra gunships, four observation craft, and two dog patrol squads.

Washington has stationed about 10,000 combat troops in Panama, the headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command, for several years. The command centre covers all of Central America.

In addition to the troops, there are about 13,000 military dependents in Panama. 1,300 U.S. employees who operate the canal and about 12,000 of their dependents.

It is the second time in as many months that extra U.S. troops have been ordered to Panama. In February, several hundred additional security troops were sent in.

An official in Washington said Friday night that the additional police were needed because of what he called "the instability of the situation and the way (General Manuel Antonio) Noriega is dealing with it."

Reporters in Panama were told that the strengthened security

was needed because of instability in Panama and the "potential for increased threat to U.S. citizens."

"The heavy-handed tactics of Noriega in dealing with the situation... make this deployment essential at this time to ensure the continued safety of U.S. personnel and facilities," a Defence Department statement issued to reporters said.

Noriega has accused the United States of planning a military invasion of Panama, a charge Washington says is absurd.

The U.S. military spokesman in Panama, Colonel Ronald Sconyers, told reporters that security personnel would patrol only in the canal zone and around U.S. facilities, but would be responsible for the 6,000 U.S. military personnel and dependents living outside U.S. areas.

"They are not meant to be a statement to Gen. Noriega," he said.

Sconyers said there were no immediate plans to send more troops, but added, "if need be we will deploy additional forces."

The United States is seeking the removal of Noriega through a campaign of economic pressure and has ruled out the use of military force.

**Quiet for Easter**  
Meanwhile in Panama City, soldiers were off the streets as

Easter weekend began and a jailed opposition leader's wife said her husband was being held hostage in Noriega's effort to maintain power.

Opposition leaders said they planned to meet Saturday or Sunday to decide whether to lift a 12-day-old general strike that has shut down most commercial activity in an effort to oust Noriega, Panama's de facto leader and its 15,000-member defence forces.

Virtually all businesses were closed for the Christian holiday of Good Friday. The general strike had eased earlier in the week, with groceries and pharmacies reopening, reportedly under government pressure.

**Political hostage**  
Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra, a top leader of the opposition National Civic Crusade, spent his fifth day in jail Friday. Other Crusade leaders and several journalists arrested with him Monday had all been released by midday Tuesday.

"All legal efforts on his behalf have been useless," Vilma Gonzalez de la Lastra told the Associated Press Friday night. "They have not charged him, but they don't let him go."

"We consider Carlos a political hostage," she said of her husband.

Panamanian police patrols replaced soldiers Friday for the first time since a failed March 16 coup attempt against Noriega. It was an indication of how the city has quieted for the holiday weekend, after weeks of protest.

# Manila coup leader escapes

MANILA (R) — The leader of the Philippines' bloodiest coup attempt escaped from a prison ship along with 13 of his guards and at least one machine gun early Saturday as other soldiers fled at their fleeing rubber rafts, the military said.

Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and the guards fled in darkness on two boats, according to a military spokesman who said he had no information on whether there were casualties.

President Corason Aquino called an emergency meeting of her top civilian and military advisers as the military launched a massive manhunt amid fears that Honasan might launch another revolt.

Honasan led an unsuccessful coup attempt against Aquino last Aug. 28 which claimed 53 lives, and was the country's most wanted fugitive until his capture on Dec. 9.

Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa ordered troops on full alert — the highest state of combat readiness — and officials said Aquino told metropolitan Manila mayors to report any "unusual movements" of soldiers in their areas.

Military Spokesman Colonel Oscar Florendo said checkpoints had been set up around Manila in case Honasan tried to come into or leave the capital.

Florendo said Honasan apparently bribed his guards before fleeing the navy ship, moored in Manila Bay 500 metres from shore, where he had been held since his capture.

"We believe that they will make another move with the intention to take over the leadership of the government," Florendo said.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos called Honasan's escape "disturbing" and said "every possible action was being taken to minimise any... damage he might make."

Honasan's August coup nearly toppled Aquino and was marked by some of the worst street fighting in Manila since World War II. More than 1,200 officers and soldiers joined Honasan in the revolt, the most serious of five coup attempts Aquino has faced.

Saturday's statement announced Honasan's escape "with sadness" and added that the alert was also aimed at heading off possible "offensive or terrorist action" by Communist guerrillas who might take advantage of the situation.

# Prosecutor decides not to charge Meese

WASHINGTON (R) — Attorney General Edwin Meese has won a significant reprieve as a special prosecutor ruled out for now bringing criminal charges against the top U.S. law enforcement official over an Iraqi oil pipeline deal.

But prosecutor James Mc Kay said Friday his nearly year-old probe into Meese's financial affairs and the \$1-billion pipeline deal, which allegedly called for Israeli payoffs, would continue for at least another month.

Mc Kay said there was not enough evidence to bring charges now against Meese, who has been under mounting pressure from his own aides and from members of Congress to resign because of questions about his ethics.

The charges involving the never-built pipeline were considered the most serious against Meese, who has had the continued support of President Reagan, his long-time friend, throughout the ordeal.

Although Mc Kay said he has yet to finish his investigation into all matters involving Meese, legal experts said it appeared unlikely the attorney general would be indicted.

At the Justice Department, Meese told a news conference he was gratified by Mc Kay's decision and vowed to stay in office.

"I don't think I've been in constant difficulty," Meese said in brushing aside questions about his legal problems.

The Justice Department was thrown into disarray after two of his top officials and their four aides quit Tuesday over what Meese confirmed were basic differences over the impact on the agency from the lengthy probe.

**Hounded out of office**

In an interview broadcast Friday night on ABC Television's "20/20" news programme, Meese insisted he would not resign.

"I think it is very important if we are going to make government safe for public officials that no person should be able to hounded out of office by false accusations, by incessant media barrages... or by political attacks," Meese said.

He denied that the controversy was damaging Reagan, adding that "to give in, to capitulate to false accusations and political attacks, I think that would be far worse..."

He suggested that many of the attacks against him were political in nature and that he hoped the American people would wait for the all of the facts before making a final judgment on him.

A poll by the weekly magazine U.S. News and World Report released Friday showed that Americans by a more than two-to-one margin think Meese should resign. The call for Meese's resignation was overwhelming across all ideological, political and demographic



Edwin Meese

groups, the magazine said. Mc Kay has investigated Meese's role in the pipeline deal that allegedly called for payoffs of as much as \$700 million over 10 years to Israel and the Israeli Labour Party.

**Candidates join in**

In addition, candidates for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination Friday united in calling for Meese's resignation. The candidates were campaigning among farmers and factory workers in Wisconsin.

Senators Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee and Paul Simon of Illinois joined frontrunners Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and Jesse Jackson in demanding that Meese resign.

"As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, today we are asking Ed Meese to resign," Simon said in a speech in Superior.

"It's time in this nation to restore respect for government, to establish rule of law," Gore said in the same town.

# Italy denies deal to take F-16s

ROME (R) — Defence Minister Valerio Zanone Friday denied that Italy had agreed in principle to station on its territory 72 U.S. F-16 fighter planes being withdrawn from Spain.

Asked at a press conference about news reports that Italy had already agreed to take the nuclear-capable planes, which must leave Spain within three years under an agreement with Washington, Zanone said:

"I would not say there is an agreement in principle. There is serious attention on the part of the Italian government to the problem... there is a willingness by Italy to study the possibility of redeploying the F-16s in Italy."

Zanone, speaking after talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, stressed that a decision on the planes rested with NATO.

But he said preliminary studies by the Italian government were making satisfactory progress.

Asked whether the United States was in a hurry for a firm decision, he said: "Yes, they have problems connected to their budget decisions and knowing the planes have to leave Spain within three years, they want a decision reasonably quickly. It is certainly an urgent question."

# COLUMN

Get a brain

NEW YORK (AP) — Memory problems in rats caused by chronic alcohol intake were mostly reversed with brain tissue transplants, and such therapy may someday help alcoholics and victims of Alzheimer's disease, a researcher says.

"I think that really means there's hope, if you blow your mind with too much whiskey, maybe we'll be able to repair it with transplants," or similarly ease mental deficits in Alzheimer's, said Jeffrey Gray of the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

But experts in alcohol-induced memory problems were sceptical, questioning the resemblance of the rats' condition to that of alcoholics and cautioning that any implication for treatment is only speculation. Still, "I think it's going to stimulate lots of excitement and lots of further research," said Michael Eckardt, chief of the Clinical Brain Research Section in the Laboratory of Clinical Studies at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Gray, head of the Psychology Department at the Psychiatric Institute in London, reports the research with colleagues in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature.

**Pricey piece**

LONDON (R) — A rare Stradivarius violin made in 1709 became the world's most expensive musical instrument Thursday when it was sold for £473,000 (\$851,000) at Sotheby's auction house in London. The winning bid came by telephone from an anonymous South American collector, beating the previous record of £440,000 (\$795,000) paid for another Stradivarius at a Christie's auction here last year.

"This is a beautiful instrument and we fully expected it to fetch a world record," said Sotheby's spokeswoman said. The instrument, known as the Marie Hall after a British violinist of the 1920s, was made by Italian craftsman Antonio Stradivari, who developed the violin to near-perfection.

**Bad eggs**

BONN (R) — A supermarket chain is suing a West German farmer for damages because the eggs from his chickens cannot be painted in the traditional Easter way, a Bonn newspaper reported Saturday.

The General Anzeiger daily said the supermarket took action after angry customers returned their newly-purchased eggs saying that when they tried to paint them, the colours ran off the shell. Laboratory tests revealed that the eggs were coated with a harmless substance which resisted moisture. The farmer, who faces a 30,000-mark (\$18,000) damages claim, was "very upset as he had always tried to rear his chickens organically," the daily said. He blamed the problem on an ingredient in the chickens' feed.

**Repent for a new face**

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey last week introduced a repentance law for political extremists, with offers of plastic surgery for those still free who supply information leading to the downfall of an outlawed organisation. The law, published in the official gazette, is aimed at finally crushing rightist and leftist extremist groups largely responsible for more than 5,000 deaths in street violence before the 1980 military coup.

Under the law, militants facing death sentences for acts of violence will receive a minimum of 15 years jail from courts if they give evidence against their organisations. Members of militant organisations still at large will be resettled with families and new jobs, and be allowed plastic surgery to help reduce acts of revenge, if they supply police with information leading to the collapse of a group.

**Schoolgirl tricks**

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — With business bruised by the deadly AIDS virus, prostitutes in southern Uganda are masquerading as school girls to lure clients, the head of Uganda's AIDS taskforce said Thursday. Dr Samuel Okware, the head of the National Committee for Prevention of AIDS, said his organisation had started a countryside educational programme to warn people of the charade. He said in the last three months, the practice had become common among prostitutes in Masaka, about 130 kilometres southwest of Kampala, the capital.

Men are "diverting their attention to schoolgirls and ignoring bar maids and prostitutes" because of their fear of catching AIDS, he told the Associated Press. Consequently, prostitutes are donning school uniforms and carrying books during the late afternoon hours when students normally return home from school.

# Reagan signs contra aid package

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan Friday signed a \$48-million humanitarian aid package for the contra rebels and the children injured in Nicaragua's civil war and then headed to California for a 10-day vacation.

Reagan signed the legislation at the White House before departing for his mountain ranch in California. The signing was announced by a brief executive order delegating responsibilities to various agencies to carry out provisions of the law.

The bill could be last of its kind that Reagan signs, given the truce

agreement the contras signed March 23 in Sapo, Nicaragua, with the ruling Sandinista government.

Only \$17.7 million of the \$48 million will go to the Nicaraguan rebels, and the package contains no provision for weapons and ammunition.

The plan, which also contains money to finance rehabilitation and treatment of children injured on both sides of the 7-year-old conflict, was passed overwhelmingly by both the House of Representatives and Senate earlier this week.

In addition, about \$10 million will be sent to a verification commission to monitor compliance with the Sandinista-contra ceasefire.

Presidential Spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters aboard the plane en route to California that Reagan had said the aid was "urgently needed, that he wanted to sign it as soon as possible."

Fitzwater noted that a United Nations investigative team has returned from Central America where it looked into the recent fighting along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border and the temporary deployment some 3,200 U.S. troops in Honduras.

Although the White House has not yet seen the team's report, Fitzwater said press reports have said the U.N. panel's findings "confirm the Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras, that they have photographic evidence of the fighting, and that the U.S. exercises were a success. If those reports are right, why, we're very gratified."

# Vietnam asks China for return of sailors

BANGKOK (AP) — Vietnam has asked for the return of Vietnamese sailors China claims to have rescued after a clash in the South China Sea, along with an air force pilot who flew into Chinese territory last October.

The requests were made Friday in a meeting in Hanoi between Nguyen Phuong Vu, head of the China Department of Vietnam's Foreign Ministry, and China's ambassador to Hanoi, Li Shichun, the official Radio Hanoi reported.

A text of the domestic radio

broadcast was obtained Saturday from a Western embassy in Bangkok.

Vietnam says 74 of its sailors are missing from a March 14 exchange of gunfire between Vietnamese and Chinese ships in the Spratly Islands, which both nations claim. It said four Vietnamese were killed and 24 wounded.

Hanoi says Chinese warships fired on sailors who had abandoned their sinking freighters, but the Chinese claimed to have helped rescue them.

# U.S. prison inmates seek end to lockdown

CHICAGO (AP) — Attorneys for inmates of a U.S. government penitentiary asked an appeals court Friday to end the prison's 4½ year period of extreme security, arguing that inmates are suffering physical and psychological brutality.

"Prisoners are chained to their beds, spread-eagle, sometimes for days at a time," attorney Nancy Horgan argued before a three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

U.S. District Judge James Foreman, who heard the original class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of inmates at the Marion, Illinois, prison refused last February to grant an injunction ending the lockdown.

Foreman's ruling followed a 1985 decision by U.S. Magistrate Kenneth Meyers that tight security at the prison did not constitute cruel and unusual punishment and was necessary to protect inmates and staff.

The lockdown was imposed in October 1983, following a bloody week in which two guards and an inmate were killed in separate incidents.

Since then, virtually all 350 inmates at the maximum-security penitentiary remain locked in their cells for 23 hours a day, although prisoners in certain tiers are given an additional four hours outside their cell each week. Family contact visits are not allowed. Meals are delivered

through a slot and are eaten by prisoners while sitting on the floor or on a bed because cells have no chairs or tables.

Attorneys for the inmates argued that the lockdown has become a permanent condition of imprisonment, and that Marion officials use a capricious, arbitrary system in assigning prisoners to tiers and doling out limited privileges.

**Most unmanageable inmates**

Prison officials counter that the lockdown is necessary because the prison houses the most unmanageable inmates in the U.S. prison system.

"Most of them come from the segregation units at other federal prisons," Assistant U.S. Attorney Ralph Friederich told the judges. "It is a place for inmates who have demonstrated an inability to control their conduct at other institutions."

Marion was built in 1963. In 1979, it was designated by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons as the first Level 6 prison — the system's most secure. It remains the only Level 6 institution.

The roster of high-profile inmates who have been imprisoned there and several spectacular escape attempts have led to its comparison to Alcatraz, the fortress island prison in San Francisco bay that was closed 25 years ago.

By Michel Roddy  
Reuter

ABIDJAN — Yvonne, a 24-year-old prostitute working outside one of Ivory Coast's top hotels, carries condoms to protect against AIDS and insists her customers use them.

"If they won't, I won't go with them," she said.

On the other side of this teeming city of two million, Doris, who works in a shantytown and charges a dollar for her services, knows condoms help prevent AIDS but doesn't use them. "I don't do anything (for protection)," she said.

West Africa, much of which considered AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and invention of Western media or a plot to defame Africa, is now confronting the scourge.

But this economically troubled region cannot find cash for basic necessities, let alone a massive campaign against AIDS. Many governments, citing the need to feed their citizens or fight bigger killers like malaria or tuberculosis, have put AIDS campaigns on a back burner.

"We have no money," said Dr. Koudou Odehouri, chairman of Ivory Coast's National AIDS committee.

"We asked (the government) for a photocopying machine and we didn't even get that," said Odehouri, whose committee's main activity is meeting doctors and health care workers to alert them to AIDS.

"We know that distributing condoms to prostitutes would be one way to help," said biologist Affoué Sangare, who did some of Ivory Coast's initial AIDS research. "But the government says it hasn't got the money," she said.

**No money, no means**

**Environment-Development**  
Action, a Senegal-based private organisation, said in a 1987 report that no black African nation had

the financial resources to fight AIDS on the scale of campaigns in the United States or Europe.

The report estimated that Cameroon, for example, would have to spend the equivalent of its entire annual export earnings to screen residents for AIDS.

Ivory Coast, with one of the highest living standards in sub-Saharan Africa, had no equipment to test for the AIDS virus in blood donations until January.

Odehouri said new equipment, donated by France, can test blood for Abidjan and its suburbs — home to about a fifth of the nation's 10 million population — but there is no money to buy equipment for the rest of the country.

Although official figures appear to be extremely conservative, the number of reported AIDS victims is rising.

Congo, located on what is known as Africa's AIDS Belt along with Zaire, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, Zambia and the Central African Republic, had 250 AIDS cases in 1985. The number increased fivefold to 1,250 at the end of last year, the government has reported.

Zaire's commissioner (minister) of public health, Dr. Ngandu Kabeya, said that seven per cent of the 2.4 million people in the capital, Kinshasa, had been exposed to the AIDS virus, meaning they were HIV-positive.

Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa's most populous nation with an estimated 100 million people, reported in February that 10 people had died of AIDS, up from five the previous October.

Other countries that until recently have been little touched are also reporting AIDS victims.

Guinea, according to partial figures, has had at least four AIDS cases, two of whom have died. Burkina Faso had at least 19 cases by mid-1987; Gabon has had five AIDS-linked deaths; Mali has had 29 cases since the first AIDS death was recorded in 1985; and tiny Gambia, with less

than a million population, had 44 cases by early this year.

Ivory Coast, whose health minister reported 118 cases in February 1987, now has at least 300 cases, although precise figures are not known, Odehouri said.

A study published in February 1987 in the British medical journal, the Lancet, found that of 1,508 people tested in Ivory Coast, 30 per cent of prostitutes in the group had been exposed to the AIDS virus, compared to only one per cent of pregnant women.

Odehouri said an unpublished study by the U.S. government's Centres for Disease Control showed the exposure rate for pregnant women in Ivory Coast had vastly increased.

**Realisation**

"At the beginning people took this lightly," Odehouri said. "But more and more they are beginning to see the death count rise, so they are beginning to realise it is serious."

"If we don't make a tremendous effort, this could supplant other illnesses as Africa's biggest killer."

There are signs that people are paying more attention to AIDS throughout West Africa.

In Gabon, a medical talk series, "Hello Doctor," devoted a show to AIDS and drew the highest ratings recorded for a programme concerning the disease.

Popular singers, such as Gabon's Hilarion Nguma, have written songs about AIDS.

Nguma, with a sceptic's eye, sings about the dangers of sexual adventurism, but says AIDS is one disease among many and, like traffic accidents, just another way to die.

Not all Africans take such a fatalistic view.

In Congo, a thriving business has blossomed on the streets of the capital Brazzaville where vendors sell condoms, considered a form of protection against AIDS,

for 40 cents apiece.

In Liberia, demand for condoms is so great family planning agencies supplying them report they sometimes run out.

In the capital, Monrovia, occasionally swept by rumours of AIDS outbreaks, many men say they think twice before going out with a woman, particularly a prostitute.

**'Business is bad'**

"Business is bad these days," one Monrovia prostitute told Reuters. "Men come into the bars, buy you a drink, talk, but they don't want to go to bed."

Gabon, one of sub-Saharan

Africa's wealthiest nations, has two medical research centres working on AIDS and a broad-reaching hospital-based programme to detect infection early on.

"The disease exists and we should not hide it," said Gabon's health minister, Dr. Jean-Pierre Okias. "We must do everything possible to sidetrack and prevent the disease."

In Congo, after a faltering start to educate schoolchildren about AIDS, the government plans a broader public awareness campaign to include videotapes, posters and music and poetry contests.



A 22-year-old AIDS victim and her two-month-old child who had AIDS from birth. Both are now dead (File photo)